

## To the Board:

The spring semester at UMass Boston has been filled with activity and accomplishments as the university continues to rise to meet the challenges of our times and foster student success.

At a time of rising anti-Asian intolerance, UMass Boston has appointed Professor Shirley Tang as the Inaugural Endowed Distinguished Professor for Asian American Studies, a newly created professorship funded by an anonymous \$6 million gift. This advancement furthers our leadership role among Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions and builds on our excellence in Asian American Studies pedagogy and scholarship.

Also in this report:

- UMass Boston deepens its relationship and commitment to Boston Public Schools and their students with Early College initiatives and a new “fifth year” program at Fenway High, enabling students to earn a full year of college credit for free. These programs further our commitment to helping first-generation and students of color succeed.
- A new Home Care Digital and Simulation Lab at the Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences will enhance the capacity of our Center for Clinical Education and Research to offer pioneering home care training and prepare the next generation of nurses. The \$3 million in new funding marks a major investment in building UMass Boston’s research and teaching infrastructure, which will benefit health care delivery and advance health care innovation in Massachusetts.
- The Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation at UMass Boston is one of six core partners in a collaborative that was awarded \$30 million over five years by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The collaborative will launch and implement a new National Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce Center that will coordinate and provide technical assistance and rigorous research to advance the recruitment and retention of a diverse, qualified, and effective workforce.

I trust you will appreciate this report on our progress.

—Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco



*Professor Shirley Tang*

## **New \$6M Gift Endows First Distinguished Professorship in Asian American Studies**

Professor Shirley Tang has been appointed the Inaugural Endowed Distinguished Professor for Asian American Studies, a newly created professorship funded by a recent \$6 million anonymous gift to UMass Boston intended to advance the university’s focus in this area in perpetuity.

“This endowment recognizes UMass Boston’s role as a leader among AANAPISI research universities and builds upon our strengths as a transformational force in Asian American Studies curriculum, pedagogy, programming, and scholarship,” said UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco.

The new funding is intended to help support, enhance, and drive strategic initiatives and attract and retain outstanding faculty members in the UMass Boston Asian American Studies Program.

According to Tang, the explosion of anti-Asian hate during the COVID-19 pandemic and the profound lack of public awareness regarding Asian American history make the creation of the new professorship even more important.

*Continued on pg. 2*

## Enhance the Learning Experience



Congressman Stephen F. Lynch, UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and UMass Board Chair Steve Karam join nursing students, faculty and staff in the simulation lab.

### U.S. Rep. Lynch, Chancellor Suárez-Orozco Announce \$3M in Funding for Nursing Lab

Congressman Stephen Lynch was joined by Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and UMass Board Chair Steve Karam in the nursing simulation lab on January 20 to announce \$3 million in new funding for the Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The federal funds, part of the final 2023 government funding package, will be used to create a Home Care Digital and Simulation Lab.

The addition will expand the Manning College's Center for Clinical Education and Research, which is currently primarily focused on hospital-based training and care. It will also expand UMass Boston's ability to train more nurses to meet the high demand.

"With this strategic appropriation, UMass Boston will establish a Home Care Digital and Simulation Lab to train the next generation of nurses in evolving home care technologies with a special emphasis on patients who are aging or disabled, or who have experienced health disparities," Suárez-Orozco said.

Lynch, of South Boston, is a strong supporter of UMass Boston and its nursing program, the ninth largest nursing school in the country with approximately 1,400 students enrolled. Last year he secured a \$1.35 million appropriation to begin planning for the new clinical lab and additional space for the college.

### Cover story (cont.)

It will help to strengthen UMass Boston's role as a minority-serving AANAPISI institution and invest in the future and power of storytelling through the Asian American Studies curriculum and pedagogy.

"I love teaching at UMass Boston because of the students—first-generation, working-class, from immigrant and refugee families and local communities of color," said Professor Tang. "Their stories are deep, but too often buried, hidden, or disrespected. When you peel the layers of their stories, you learn just how powerful they are."



Students meet with Athletics Director Jacqui Schuman as part of the celebration of National Women & Girls in Sport Day.

### Sports Leadership and Administration Program Hosts First International Women and Girls in Sports Week

The New Balance Sport Leadership and Administration program at UMass Boston hosted its first-ever International Women and Girls in Sports Week with a series of learning activities for students that feature some of the field's most accomplished and influential women. The program, which began in 2019, was launched to cultivate equity-minded, character-driven, and transformational leaders who will positively improve society through sport.

The week included small group breakout sessions with industry leaders, presentations about empowerment of women in sports, strategies for unlocking sponsorship value for women's sports and a career-building workshop. Among the stellar roster of leaders who participated were Amy Latimer, president of TD Garden and UMass Boston's Sports Leadership and Administration program executive in residence; Vice Chancellor for Athletics and Recreation Dr. Jacqui Schuman; Katie Kelly, talent acquisition specialist for the Boston Red Sox; Molly Murphy, director of Kraft Analytics Group; Cosmina Schulman, senior vice president of partnerships at NESN; Holly Burgess, director of Traffic at NESN; Allyce Najimy, CEO of the Foundation To Be Named Later; and Demeka Fields, general counsel of New Balance.

## Continue a Positive Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate



*The newly unveiled Embrace sculpture in the Boston Common*

### UMass Boston Alumni Help Bring *The Embrace* to Boston Common

In February, one of the largest memorials ever dedicated to racial equality was unveiled on the Boston Common. *The Embrace* aims to honor the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, and spark a public conversation on advancing racial and social justice in Boston today.

Two UMass Boston alumni—Imari Paris Jeffries '97, G'99, G'03, current PhD candidate, UMass trustee, and executive director of Embrace Boston, the nonprofit that raised \$8 million to commission *The Embrace*; and Paul English '87, G'89, H'19, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and founder of King Boston, the earlier incarnation of Embrace Boston —helped nurture the vision for the memorial.

“Embrace Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s humane message: talk to your fellow Beacons, friends, loved ones, and neighbors about the vision of peace and harmony to which Dr. King dedicated his life,” said Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco. “Visit The Embrace. Work across divides to make our communities whole and always challenge injustice everywhere.”

### University Continues Work on Enabling Inclusive Identity

UMass Boston continues to work to cultivate an inclusive campus community and healthy social environment, and this includes enabling students to identify themselves as they desire. As part of this effort in 2022, the UMass President’s Office and the Boston, Dartmouth, and Lowell campuses collaborated on the Enable Inclusive Identity Project. The project sought to define the terms and values needed in our WISER student information system to enable students to self-identify with greater autonomy. The data collected will be used to develop the specialized programs and services students have been asking for and the practices and support systems necessary to maintain these values over time.

At UMass Boston, this multi-campus project was sponsored by the Registrar’s Office, Student Affairs, and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and driven by the IT Project Management Office. It was scoped into two phases, with Phase 1 focusing on the relabeling of Chosen Name to Pronoun and Gender to Sex, and went live in the summer of 2022. Phase 2 introduced new Pronouns, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation and went live in the fall of 2022.

Supporting and advancing inclusive identity in the WISER student information system reflects UMass Boston’s essential commitment to its students.

## Enhance the Learning Experience (cont.)

### UMass Boston Awarded CCCC Writing Program Certificate of Excellence

The university’s composition program has won a Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) Writing Program Certificate of Excellence. The CCCC is a constituent organization within the National Council of Teachers of English.

UMass Boston is one of eight programs to receive this award for 2022–2023. Established in 2004, this award honors up to 20 writing programs a year.

The award committee said that the UMass Boston Composition Program is notable for implementing a program that focuses on students’ declarative knowledge about writing and reflective practices toward developing metacognition. This program also supports several opportunities for public outreach and audiences, including *Undercurrents: A Journal of Undergraduate Student Composition*, and an annual university-wide celebration of the National Day on Writing.

## Continue a Positive Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate (cont.)



*Cedric Woods; Elizabeth Solomon, tribal council member and elder of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag; Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco; Faries Gray, Sagamore of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag; and Provost Joseph Berger*

## UMass Boston, Tribal Leaders Meet to Explore Partnership

Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco recently met with Native American tribal leaders in whose homelands the campus now sits. This initial gathering is intended to begin a series of meetings with tribal leaders to establish a long-lasting relationship and recognition of Native Americans indigenous to Columbia Point and the region.

The meeting was facilitated by the Institute for New England Native American Studies Director Cedric Woods and included Provost Joseph Berger and Blaire Morseau, assistant professor of anthropology, and Maria John, assistant professor of history, both from the Native American and Indigenous Studies program. Tribal leaders in attendance included the Sagamore of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag Faries Gray and tribal council member and elder Elizabeth Solomon of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag.

UMass Boston has taken initial steps such as establishing Indigenous Peoples Day, commissioning Indigenous art installations on campus, launching a resource portal for Native American and indigenous students, and enhancing engagement and support of UMass Boston's Native American / Indigenous student population.

## New Grant Funds UMass Boston, Bunker Hill Community College Collaboration to Enhance Pathways for AANAPISI Students

A five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education will fund a plan for UMass Boston to work with Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) to implement a culturally sustaining transfer pathway that enhances the capacities of each institution. This new funding comes at a critical time given the dual pandemic of COVID-19 and anti-Asian hate aimed at Asian American students, families, and communities.

“As a leading Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI), this new grant is an authentic recognition of the importance of the work UMass Boston is doing with Bunker Hill Community College,” said Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco. “Our partnership will strengthen support for the many students from communities who are often first-generation college goers from immigrant and/or refugee families.”

This is UMass Boston's fifth AANAPISI grant since 2010, totaling nearly \$9.5 million.

This partnership is critical because the largest share of Asian American transfer students at UMass Boston begin their studies at BHCC. In fall 2021, of all UMass Boston transfer students who are Asian American, 34% transferred from BHCC.

## Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace



Stone Living Lab's Melanie Gárate, Katherine Dafforn of Macquarie University, AU, UMass Boston Professor Jarrett Byrnes, Kirk Bosma with the Woods Hole Group, and School for the Environment Professor Paul Kirshen, also the research director at SLL

### Environmental Partnership Announced During Royal Visit

UMass Boston's climate efforts were highlighted on a global stage as the Prince and Princess of Wales visited Boston in December to celebrate their environmental innovation initiative, the Earthshot Prize. As part of the visit, Stone Living Lab and Australian-based 2021 Earthshot finalist Living Seawalls announced a partnership to further ecological restoration on Boston Harbor's coastal seawalls to support the region's climate resiliency efforts.

"We are honored to conduct collaborative research with our colleagues from Living Seawalls ... to help improve biodiversity and manage flooding in Boston Harbor," said UMass Boston professor and Stone Living Lab research director Paul Kirshen.

The environmental partnership was featured in news outlets from The Boston Globe and WBUR to the Independent and Vanity Fair. Over the course of 2023, the partners will install Living Seawalls panels, mimicking the habitat features of natural shoreline ecosystems, such as rock pools and crevices, at two sites in Boston Harbor. Prince William also toured the JFK Library and Museum, meeting with President Biden.

UMass Boston's School for the Environment Dean Bob Chen also served as a member of the Host Committee for The Earthshot Prize, Boston 2022.

### UMass Boston and Boston Public Schools Launch Early College Program

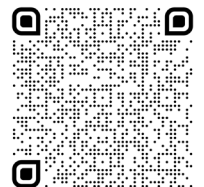
UMass Boston is working with three high schools and the larger Boston Public School district to launch new immersive Early College programs, providing students with the opportunity to earn up to 30 college credits — or one full year of college— for free, expediting their path to a degree.

These Early College programs began as pilots in the fall and are serving 95 students at Boston Community Leadership Academy, Fenway High School, and New Mission High School. Students will be dually enrolled at BPS and UMass Boston, and will receive in-person instruction, wrap-around support services, mentoring, and tutoring from UMass Boston faculty, advisors, and the university's students, many of them BPS graduates.

These programs are being launched with generous support from the Smith Family Foundation and the State Street Foundation. The Smith Family Foundation has pledged \$1.9 million to support these Early College partnership programs over the next three academic years. The State Street Foundation is supporting the current pilot phase with an initial \$150,000 investment.

In addition, Mayor Michelle Wu announced in her first State of the City address in January that UMass Boston is working with Fenway High to launch a pilot program to provide their graduates with a "fifth year" of high school. Students will continue to receive support from the high school while taking a full course load at UMass Boston and benefitting from the full range of resources and supports available at the university.

Watch Mayor Wu's announcement.



## Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace (cont.)

### Online Programs rank among the nation's best, according to U.S. News

UMass Boston's online bachelor's degree and online graduate programs, including the MBA and master's in education, were listed among the nation's best in the U.S. News and World Report 2023 Best Online Programs rankings. Most notable among the rankings was the university's online bachelor's degree, which was ranked as 35th in the nation.

The new top 100 rankings include:

- Online bachelor's – No. 35, up from No. 39
- Online Master's in business (non-MBA) – No. 72
- Online MBA – No. 102
- Online Master's in education – No. 43

"Online education and distance learning enable world-class faculty at universities like UMass Boston to teach larger numbers of students than ever before," said Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco.

### CEHD Offers New Instructional Technology Certificate Program

The College of Education and Human Development's Graduate Program Director of the Instructional Design program Carol Sharicz, in conjunction with Director of Faculty Support Services Tyra Lopes Mendes, responded to a call from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to create a certificate program for K-12 teachers in the commonwealth to get their licensure as an Instructional Technology Specialist.

CEHD's proposal was accepted by DESE in July 2022. The program has held four virtual open houses, and, to date, there are 36 K-12 teachers interested in the program. Following a cohort model, the program will start with 8-10 teachers this summer. UMass Boston is the only public university in the commonwealth to offer such a program for K-12 teachers.



*Jacob Adkins and Andrew Walker have excelled on and off the ice at UMass Boston.*

### Men in Blades Finalists for Hockey Humanitarian Award

The Men in Blades, senior men's hockey players Jake Adkins and Andy Walker, have been named finalists for the prestigious Hockey Humanitarian Award for the third straight year. A standout initial fundraiser involved them rollerblading from Massachusetts to Michigan in 2020. Adkins and Walker have also organized an annual Race II a Cure 5K and two Hockey Fights Cancer Nights. Having raised over \$50,000 for the American Cancer Society, the duo looks to become the first players in UMass Boston program history to win the award.

Presented by the Hockey Humanitarian Award Foundation, the Hockey Humanitarian Award is presented annually to college hockey's "finest citizen" for leadership in community service.

### Beacons Earn Honors, Reach Tournament Play

The women's ice hockey team played perhaps one of their most challenging schedules in program history and competed against multiple NCAA Tournament power houses including Norwich University, who they tied in their regular season overtime game. Both the men's and women's ice hockey teams advanced to conference play.

Women's basketball senior Meg Dixon shattered nearly every shooting record UMass Boston has on her way to becoming the newest member of the 1,000-point club, only the 11th player in program history to reach that mark.

Men's basketball advanced to conference play, while senior Malik Lorquet was a major highlight as the first player in program history to compete in a national fan vote dunk contest, which was sponsored by State Farm. Lorquet also became the 16th player in program history to eclipse the 1,000-point mark.

Track and Field had three members earn All-Little East Conference honors—Aryanna Garceau, Jacqueline Earner, and Jimmy Cannon. Garceau and Earner were also first place finishers at the conference championship meet.

## Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise



Anne Douglass, founder and executive director of the Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation

### U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to Create National ECE Workforce Center

The Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation at UMass Boston is one of six core partners in a collaborative that was awarded \$30 million over five years by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Administration for Children and Families. The collaborative will launch and implement a new National Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce Center that will coordinate and provide technical assistance and rigorous research to advance the recruitment and retainment of a diverse, qualified, and effective workforce.

The Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation will serve in a lead role supporting research and technical assistance activities at the National ECE Workforce Center that focus on ECE workforce systems change and early educator leadership.

“We are at a pivotal moment for the field of early care and education, and the Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation is thrilled to be a part of this groundbreaking effort. The National ECE Workforce Center will play a key role in transforming the systems the ECE workforce needs to thrive and lead,” said Anne Douglass, PhD, founder and executive director of UMass Boston’s Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation.

### Researchers Explore Impacts of Climate Change Through the Eyes of Boston Area Residents of Color

A report released this winter from the Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston examines the relationship between racial and ethnic inequalities and climate interventions. The report, *Voices that Matter: Boston Area Residents of Color Discuss Climate Change*, looks at climate change from the perspective of Asian American, Black, Latino, and Native American Boston residents with a focus on health impacts, preparedness, and the ways individuals, groups, and government can address it. Creating opportunities for residents to share their insights into their experiences and input into how to address issues is an essential element for creating successful interventions for residents and communities.

The research, conducted by Assistant Professor Lorena Estrada-Martinez (School for the Environment), Professor and Director of the Institute for Asian American Studies Paul Watanabe, and PhD candidate Katsyris Rivera-Kientz, is a continuation of their 2020 *Views that Matter: Race and Opinions on Climate Change of Boston Area Residents*. In their latest report, the authors further amplify the voices of Greater Boston’s residents of color through in-depth focus groups, which built on their previous survey findings.

### Applied Linguistics Professors Awarded \$2.9M for Development Program for Teachers of English Learners

UMass Boston Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics Avary Carhill-Poza and Professor of Applied Linguistics Panayota Gounari have been awarded a prestigious five-year, \$2.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s National Professional Development program.

The project, Centering Relationships, Equity, and Access for Teachers of English Learners (CREATE), is a rigorous professional development program that offers a practical solution for the shortage of qualified, diverse teachers of English learners in eight urban high-needs public school districts in Greater Boston. The project will enable designated school districts to increase their capacity to serve multilingual students and their families.

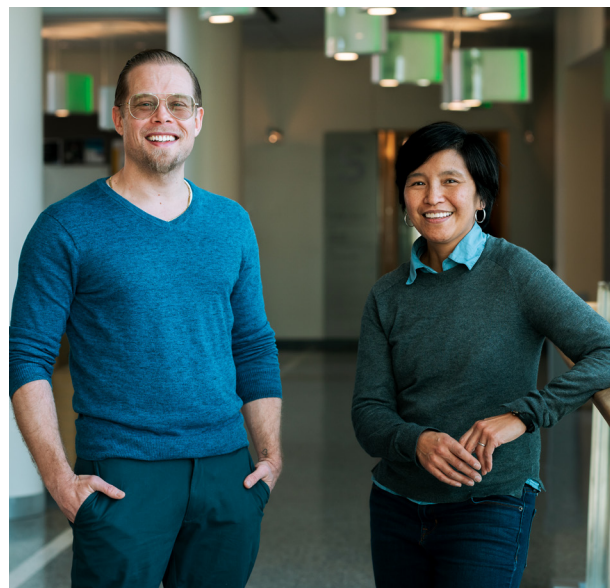
The project aims to recruit and train 120 teachers over the next five years. Recruitment will focus on Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) teachers who are bilingual, and paraprofessionals who typically lack direct pathways to licensure and long-term careers in schools.

## Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise (cont.)

### University Research Awards for the Last Quarter

- PI James Cedric Woods/Institute for New England Native American Studies received \$996,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for *Opioid Crisis in MA: Understanding its impact and developing effective responses*.
- PI Kiersten Carinne Kerby-Patel/Engineering Department received \$610,554 from the Boeing Company (sub from University of Oklahoma) for *Novel electrically small wideband time-varying antennas (NEW VAN)*.
- PI Elizabeth Dugan/Gerontology Institute received \$525,000 from the Point32Health Foundation for *New England Healthy Aging Data Reports*.
- PI Susan Foley/Institute for Community Inclusion received \$515,599 from the U.S. Departments of Education and Treasury (subaward from the State of Maine) for *State of Maine Progressive Employment Model Demonstration*.
- PI Alberto Migliore/Institute for Community Inclusion received \$249,199 from the Kessler Foundation for ES-Coach: *Strengthening implementation of research-based employment supports to increase employment outcomes*.
- PI Jeffrey Edward Stokes/Gerontology Institute received \$178,216 from the the Donaghue Foundation for *Loneliness, Living Arrangements, and Health among Older Adults with Developmental Disabilities in Long-Term Care*.
- PI Jaimie Timmons/Institute for Community Inclusion received \$125,000 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (subaward from Florida Development Disabilities Council) for *FY 23 Florida DDC Postsecondary*.
- PI Niya Sa/Chemistry Department received \$100,000 from the National Science Foundation (subaward from University of Oregon) for *CCI Phase I: Center for Interfacial Ionics*.
- PI Allison Cohen Hall/Institute for Community Inclusion received \$57,000 from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment for Colorado Employment First Initiative Evaluation.
- PI Robert Chen/School for the Environment received \$24,657 from the New England Aquarium for Fisheries Science Work within the *Fisheries Science and Emerging Technologies*.

## Maintain and Improve Affordability and Access



Daniel Haehn and Kim Hamad-Schifferli

### Sloan Student Fellowships Coming to UMass Boston

To help STEM students at both UMass Amherst and UMass Boston build the relationships that lead to lasting success, five professors across the two universities have teamed up with the Sloan Foundation on a \$499,972 effort to change STEM education, beginning with engineering and computer science programs.

The project aims to diversify pathways from undergraduate to graduate education on the two campuses through faculty and student professional development and inclusive mentoring. The goal is to transform the local culture of faculty research labs by changing faculty relationships with Black, Latinx, and Indigenous (BLI) students in their research labs, according to the grant.

Assistant Professor of Computer Science Daniel Haehn and Associate Professor of Engineering Kim Hamad-Schifferli hope that these more inclusive programs will become models for reform throughout the UMass system.



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## Maintain and Improve Affordability and Access (cont.)

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### University Partners with ReUp Education

At the end of February, UMass Boston kicked off a three-year partnership with ReUp Education in an effort to reengage former students who have yet to earn a degree. ReUp is a mission-aligned organization that leads the industry in addressing the completion gap.

Leveraging patented technology, personalized support, and data insights, ReUp will engage and support former UMass Boston students to re-enroll through to graduation. UMass Boston will also be provided feedback and data from ReUp to highlight barriers and circumstances that lead to student stop-outs as well as issues encountered upon return.

Through this partnership, UMass Boston stands to increase enrollment and completion as well as identify opportunities to improve the student experience and decrease stop-outs moving forward.

### UMass Boston Selected by Amazon as an Education Partner for Career Choice Program

UMass Boston is partnering with Amazon to offer the company's hourly employees access to undergraduate degrees and certificate programs. Through its Career Choice program, Amazon will provide an annual benefit to cover tuition and select fees for all qualifying hourly employees to take courses at the harborside campus.

Amazon employees will have access to UMass Boston undergraduate courses that apply to an undergraduate certificate or bachelor's degree program in any major of study. The goal is to support Amazon workers to help them learn new skills for career success.

Through the Career Choice program, participants will have access to UMass Boston's more than 80 academic programs offered online or in-person, including in-demand programs such as Management, Marketing, Computer Science, Information Technology, and Nursing.

### McMillan-Stewart Foundation Launches \$900K Scholarship at UMass Boston for Boston Public School Grads

The Geneviève McMillan-Reba Stewart Foundation has partnered with UMass Boston to create a \$900,000 endowed fund dedicated to supporting Boston Public School (BPS) students seeking university degrees. The McMillan-Stewart Endowed Scholarship at UMass Boston will help generations of BPS graduates achieve their goals in higher education and beyond. The scholarship was funded by a \$600,000 grant from the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based foundation, with a \$300,000 match through the state-funded Public Higher Education Endowment Incentive Program.

The McMillan-Stewart Endowed Scholarship at UMass Boston will provide tuition support to full-time undergraduate students who graduated from a Boston public high school and who have financial need as determined by the university. Once selected, the recipients, who will be known as McMillan-Stewart Scholars, can receive the support each year they maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 and full-time enrollment—an incentive to keep working toward their degrees. The first cohort of McMillan-Stewart Scholarships will be awarded during the 2023–24 academic year.

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## Develop First-Rate Infrastructure

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### Residence Hall to be Named in Honor of Dr. J. Keith and Angela Motley

The University of Massachusetts announced the first residence hall at UMass Boston will be dedicated in honor of Chancellor Emeritus Dr. J. Keith Motley and former first lady Angela Motley. The Motleys were the driving force in expanding the university's on-campus residential experience.

Dr. Motley, the first Black chancellor in the history of UMass Boston, presided over unprecedented growth and rebuilding of the campus between 2007 and 2017. His vision for the university included replacing and elevating much of the campus infrastructure and creating a two-building residential community for students on campus. That vision was realized when UMass Boston's first residence/dining complex opened in 2018, a public-private partnership. The opening of the state-of-the-art facility, which houses more than 1,000 students, marked the first time in the university's history that students would be able to live and learn on campus. The soon-to-be-named Dr. J. Keith and Angela Motley Hall provides housing for first-year students, flexible living and learning spaces, and a venue for fostering a stronger on-campus educational experience.

## Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service



(From left) Karen Holmes Ward moderated a panel with Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Michael Curry, Pam Eddinger, and Celina E. Miranda

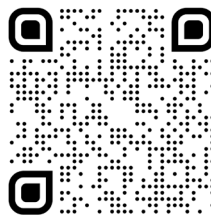
### Professors, Students, and Community Leaders Express Hope for Strategic Plan

As the only public research university in the region, UMass Boston's plans and actions are tied to the community in a very special way. More than 80 community leaders, faculty, staff, and students came together in February to reflect on the university's new 10-year strategic plan, *For the Times*, discussing how the university will move from plan to action, and where there are opportunities for greater community collaboration.

The discussion was part of "New Plan, New Opportunity for Action: Community Reflections on UMass Boston's New Strategic Plan," which was hosted by UMass Boston's Office of Community Partnerships and facilitated by Karen Holmes Ward, host and executive producer of *CityLine* at WCVB Channel 5 Boston.

Leaders discussed how UMass Boston's colleges and institutes need to continue to provide research that affects the city's most vulnerable populations, while also supporting and preparing the city's students to enter the workforce and tackle the most pressing issues—healthcare, education, climate change, social justice.

The event featured a video, "Student Voices," curated by *Mass Media* staff Katrina Sanville, Kaushar Barejiya, and Valentina Valderrama Perez, that includes interviews of students and alumni discussing their hopes for the strategic plan.



### Institute for Community Inclusion Fights Subminimum Wage

The Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston is working with more than 26 state public vocational rehabilitation (VR) and state developmental disability agencies to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Since the establishment of the federal minimum wage in 1938, section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act has made it legal for employers holding a 14(c) certificate to pay workers with disabilities less than the federal or state minimum wage mandated for all other workers. Wages under 14(c) can be less than \$1 per hour for employees with disabilities, compared with minimum wages between \$7.25 and \$16.50 per hour for coworkers without disabilities.

While the use of 14(c) and sub-minimum wage decreased by almost 60 percent from 2013 to July 2022, people with disabilities can still be paid less than minimum wage in 41 states, including Massachusetts. The ICI continues to work at the federal, state, and local levels to support the elimination of the subminimum wage. This requires not just eliminating 14(c), but also building the capacity to support people with disabilities as they get jobs paying the same wages as others in the general workforce.

## Renew the Faculty



(From left) David Hoff, program director at the ICI, and Yuefeng “Forest” Leung

### ICI Hosts Professional Fellow from National Committee on U.S. China Relations

Yuefeng “Forest” Leung recently spent four weeks with the Institute for Community Inclusion, as part of the National Committee on U.S. China Relations Professional Fellows Program. Leung works for the Inclusion Factory in Guangzhou, an organization that hires employees with intellectual disabilities and helps them to integrate with society through employment. Leung had a particular interest in ICI’s online learning programs for direct service staff and case managers involved in employment.

The visit also provided the opportunity to learn about the system of employment services and supports for individuals with disabilities in China, which is not nearly as expansive as that in the United States. Government funding for supports is very limited, and there is less emphasis on inclusion of people with disabilities in the mainstream workforce. However, the organization that Leung works for uses rehabilitation engineering to support employment opportunities in ways that are not typical of the United States, and unlike the United States, there is no sub-minimum wage for people with disabilities.



Fulbright Scholar Dr. William Flavell

### Visiting Scholar Researches Indigenous Development Among New Zealand, Native American Youth

Visiting Fulbright Scholar Dr. William Flavell, who hails from Aotearoa, the Māori name for New Zealand, is conducting research at UMass Boston this spring comparing the educational experiences of Native American youth with the experiences of Māori youth in New Zealand. Flavell is this year’s sole recipient of the Fulbright-Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga scholarship, which is given to outstanding Māori scholars who will conduct research at a U.S. institution in the field of indigenous development.

For his research, Flavell is connecting with local Native American tribes— specifically young adults between the ages of 18 and 24— and historians to learn more about the high school experiences of Native American youth. Flavell arrived in Boston in December for a three-month stay starting with the Anthropology Department at UMass Boston; he finishes his trip at UMass Amherst. He worked with Associate Professor of Anthropology Ping-Ann Addo and Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and Native American and Indigenous Studies Christopher Fung while at the Boston campus.

## Renew the Faculty (cont.)



Professor of Biology Nichola Hill samples a Western sandpiper.

### Biology Professor Pens Op-Ed in Boston Globe on Bird Flu

Just as the world is emerging from three years of the COVID-19 pandemic, a strain of avian influenza, or bird flu, known as highly pathogenic avian influenza, went from simmering to a rumbling boil. Assistant Professor of Biology Nichola Hill, who studies disease ecology and evolution, writes about how we should respond to this new potential pandemic in a Boston Globe op-ed.

Hill writes that immediate solutions include stepping up monitoring the health of wildlife that play an increasing role in the evolution and spread of H5N1. Understanding what ecological conditions create a tipping point for outbreaks in wildlife will be important for predicting spread. Surveillance of people who work with poultry, pigs, and domestic animals in high-density environments should also be a priority.



### Professor Visits the White House to Discuss STEM Equity

Distinguished Professor of Science Education Arthur Eisenkraft was invited to the White House recently for the White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence. UMass Boston was listed for its “Partner Commitment” in the action area addressing teacher shortages.

The White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence brought together people across STEMM—including from government and businesses, civic, education, higher-ed, nonprofit, community-based, and philanthropic organizations—committed to working collaboratively to build a more equitable and excellent science and technology ecosystem.

“The White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence was an inspirational event. One speaker remarked that ‘this is the room where it happens.’ The attendees recognized that achieving diversity and equity in science and science education will take the commitment of industry, government agencies, philanthropies, nonprofits, and academic institutions,” Eisenkraft said. “The range of partners pledging to work together was truly remarkable. UMass Boston being included in this group gave me a sense of pride.”

## Improve Delivery of Administration and IT Services



Shawn De Veau

### University Appoints New Dean of Students

After several months of evaluation, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Karen Ferrer-Muñiz named Shawn De Veau as the permanent Associate Vice Chancellor/Dean of Students, effective January 17.

De Veau is a highly respected member of the campus community and the student affairs profession, with 25-plus years of experience. The Dean of Students role is especially significant in providing collaborative and compassionate leadership in promoting student safety and growth.

## Increase Endowment

### Anonymous Grant Will Enhance Career and Academic Advising

In December, an anonymous foundation awarded the university a grant of up to \$1.2 million over two years for several projects that will enhance academic and career advising. Grant funds will support the alignment of advising practices across units, the development of common systems and trainings, and technology tools for case management and tracking student success goals and metrics.

### Alumnus Establishes DC Internship Program for UMass Boston Students

Matt Barron '86, a political consultant and experienced opposition research specialist, recently made a \$100,000 gift to launch an internship program for UMass Boston students. By establishing this fund, Barron will provide two undergraduate students with the financial resources to participate in Congressional internships in Washington, DC. The program's first two recipients, called "Barron Interns," will be announced April 2023.

### \$1.9M Bequest Creates Scholarship for Future BPS Teachers

In January, the university received a \$1.9 million gift from the estate of Dr. Jerry Starratt to establish the Robert and Ruth Starratt Endowed Scholarship at the UMass Boston College of Education and Human Development. The Starratts, who were both teachers, created their bequest intention for the scholarship in 2014. Jerry, a former Jesuit and professor of education administration at Boston College, studied ethical leadership in academia. "Dr. Ruth," as her students called her, was an award-winning art educator and lecturer at Boston University until her retirement in 2017. Their scholarship will provide partial-tuition awards to future teachers who hope to bring their education, lived experiences, skills, and passions to the Boston Public School system.

### NERCVE Receives \$200K Grant to Develop Online Braille

In February, the Sarah K. de Coizart Perpetual Charitable Trust awarded the Northeast Resource Center for Vision Education (NERCVE) a \$200,000 grant to create a second-generation online braille to support remote instruction for braille learners. NERCVE, created in 2002 by the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston, is New England's only academic center dedicated to preparing teachers of students who have visual impairments, as well as orientation and mobility specialists, vision rehabilitation therapists, and assistive technology instructional specialists. In 2006, the Center addressed the laboriousness and inefficiencies of remote braille learning by creating the first NERCVE Online Braille, an interactive tool for braille instruction that greatly improved outcomes for students learning braille. This grant will fund updates to the tool, as well as expanded features and exercises. As an open-source tool with a self-paced curriculum, the new braille will help prepare vision specialists across the nation and around the world.

## Improve Delivery of Administration and IT Services (cont.)



*UMass Boston is expanding access to high-speed internet and devices.*

### UMass Boston Works to Bridge the Digital Divide with a \$2.97M Grant

UMass Boston has launched a pilot project to increase broadband access and additional services for its students and anchor communities. Funding for the project comes from a two-year \$2.97 million grant from the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program. UMass Boston is one of 12 schools to receive the NTIA funding.

Vice Provost for Research Bala Sundaram and Associate CIO Apurva Mehta conceived the UMass Boston project, Addressing Digital Access Gaps in Education (ADAGE), during the COVID-19 pandemic. ADAGE's three-pronged approach includes increasing the university's capacity to offer hybrid/flexible courses, expanding access to high-speed internet and devices, and exposing students to technology career paths.

Through a partnership with Verizon's Digital Inclusion program, 200 students will receive a Verizon Jetpack (mobile hotspot device), along with a Microsoft Surface Go computer. The university will also strengthen the campus technology infrastructure by retrofitting classrooms for synchronous online courses.