

To the Board:

UMass Boston: Rising to Our Times

If UMass Boston is to be a university for the times, we must meet the moment. We must rise to the task of making the world better, through our education, research, and service. This is among several broad aspirations UMass Boston set out when it released *For the Times*, a new strategic plan that will guide us over the next decade. It marks a pivotal moment in UMass Boston's history as it positions us to build on our strengths – innovative, student-centered learning; the advancement of knowledge in service of the public good; and basic and translational research that moves Boston, the commonwealth, and the world forward.

Also in this report:

- UMass Boston continues to attract major funding to support cutting-edge research in high-impact fields. Professor of Physics Christopher Fuchs was awarded \$2.4 million by the John Templeton Foundation and \$400,000 by the National Science Foundation to continue his pioneering work in quantum information measurement and processing. Our School for the Environment received an \$820,000 grant from the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council to invest in research tools and spur engagement with New England's sustainability-focused BlueTech sector.
- UMass Boston hosted then-candidates Governor-elect Maura Healey and Lt. Governor-elect Kim Driscoll for a tour of the Center for Clinical Education & Research at our Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences. They explored the state-of-the-art nursing labs in our nationally ranked nursing program and met nursing students who represent the next generation of nurse practitioners and leaders.
- The university continues to invest in shaping a new education-for-the-future paradigm. We have partnered with Natick-based MathWorks to bolster science education and launch an employment pathway for UMass Boston students in STEM fields.

I trust you will appreciate this report on our progress.

– Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco



New Strategic Plan Maps University's Future

This fall, UMass Boston began unveiling *For the Times*, a 10-year strategic plan that aims to advance the university's mission of becoming an anti-racist, health-promoting institution committed to Boston and the commonwealth, dedicated to student success, and positioned to address the pressing issues of the day. The release of *For the Times* concluded a year of intense planning and consultations with more than 200 stakeholders across the UMass Boston community.

It is a plan that captures UMass Boston's ethos: a belief in diversity as a driver of discovery, and a commitment to impactful, cross-disciplinary research that serves the public good. *For the Times* offers an institutional roadmap for UMass Boston to promote the practice of democratic citizenship; prepare a diverse, talented workforce; inform equitable public policy; and strengthen Boston's resilience.

For the Times marks a pivotal moment in shaping the UMass Boston of the future. The plan is anchored by several strategic priorities that will guide UMass Boston's operations over the next decade and support the educational goals of UMass Boston students, including:

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Enhance the Learning Experience

- A focus on **holistic student success** offering many pathways to and through UMass Boston so that students can fully realize their talents and dreams as future professionals and citizens.
- **Impactful research and scholarship** around four grand scholarly challenges: Climate Equity, Health Equity, Education for the Future, and a Just Society.
- Standing **for the city of Boston** – engaged and aligned with the economic and workforce needs of Boston and the Commonwealth.
- **A reimagined campus space** highlighted by infrastructure improvements that showcase a commitment to sustainability and community.

In presenting *For the Times* to the campus, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco noted that “We are in an age of extraordinary challenges to our economy and society. In the face of deepening inequality, planetary risks to all living systems flowing from unchecked climate change, historic demographic transformations, an unresolved racial reckoning, and global health crises, we put forth a bold, optimistic strategic plan for the future of Boston’s only public research university.”



University Hosts Beacon Spirit Days

In November, the Division of Marketing and Engagement hosted two days of giveaways, performances, and good times in celebration of what it means to be a UMass Boston Beacon.

Hundreds of students stopped by to score new UMass Boston gear—from T-shirts and water bottles to hats and blankets—pose with friends at the photo booth, enter into raffles, and cheer on student performers. The event included incredible student performances by jazz saxophonist Gerardo Rivas, the African Student Union dance group, the Whisper! K-pop dance crew, DJ Ben, and the UMass Boston Cheer Team.

Enhance the Learning Experience (cont.)



Nine first-year students had their essays published in UnderCurrents.

New Issue of Undercurrents Puts Spotlight on First-Year Writers

The latest issue of the English Department's publication, *Undercurrents: A Journal of Undergraduate Student Composition*, was released this fall, featuring pieces by nine students from majors as varied as biochemistry, mathematics, history, and management.

Established by the Composition Program in 2018, *Undercurrents* publishes outstanding writing produced by undergraduate students enrolled in first-year composition courses at UMass Boston. The *Undercurrents* editorial board selects these showcase essays from nominations provided by faculty writing instructors.

This year's issue highlights essays on race and rhetoric, the morality of incarceration and capital punishment; breaking free of gender norms; the consequences of digital technologies for language, learning, and intellectual development; and a range of theory-based strategies for overcoming writer's block.

"What stands out to me the most is that students wrote essays, and chose topics, that mattered greatly to their own lives and those around them," said Editorial Director Brittanie Weatherbie-Greco. "These students were not simply writing about an assigned prompt but developing inquiries that were meaningful — and writing in a way that shared their beliefs and opinions."



Alumna Gina McCarthy '76 speaks to the university community during this fall's convocation.

Chancellor, White House Advisor Urge Students To Be Change Agents in Convocation Addresses

A UMass Boston education will give you *exactly* the right knowledge and experience you'll need to be a powerful agent of change, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco told the campus community during convocation in September.

This year's convocation—which officially marked the beginning of a new academic year—served to remind the UMass Boston community of their shared mission.

Chancellor Suárez-Orozco also welcomed White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy '76, a UMass Boston alumna, who gave the keynote address, "UMass Boston: Where Your Journey Begins". McCarthy recently stepped down as the first White House National Climate Advisor, after being appointed in 2021. Previously, she served as assistant administrator and administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during the administration of President Barack Obama.

The convocation speakers all encouraged students to stay hopeful, and McCarthy added that they should also be "obnoxiously impatient."

"...Now is the time to deliver an equitable and secure future for every human being, and we don't have any time to lose," she said. "This convocation is not just the start of your better future, it's the start of a better future for all of us, so go make that future come alive."

Provost Joseph Berger welcomed 25 new tenure-track faculty members recruited to campus this year through national searches. Another 61 faculty members were recognized for being promoted to the rank of associate professor, full professor, senior lecturer, and senior lecturer II.

Continue a Positive Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate



Student Justyn Santiago spoke at Black Lives Matter Day.

UMass Boston Celebrates Black Lives Matter Day

UMass Boston came together for its third Black Lives Matter Day last month, celebrating Black lives and contributions not only here on campus, but throughout the community and world.

The full day of sessions, *A Beautiful Resistance: Black Excellence Through Art Expression and Leadership*, connected students and faculty with Black leaders, artists, activists, and scholars from across the city and state to reflect on the commitment to honoring and uplifting the Black community through art and education and explore what it means to embody a beautiful resistance.

Community members gathered in groups small and large in the Campus Center, engaging in panel discussions and workshops that focused on everything from hip-hop as history to shifting cultural patterns and narratives in the name of wellness and healing, a keynote speech, dance and musical performances, and community art.

“On Black Lives Matter Day we honor Black brilliance, Black beauty, Black joy, and the Black legacy at UMass Boston, and appreciate the social, cultural, and intellectual contributions of every Black student, staff, faculty, and administrator who has ever set foot on this campus,” Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco said.

BLM Day at UMass Boston was established in November 2020 to represent the university’s commitment to honoring Black lives and eliminating anti-Black racism at the systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels. It is vital to UMass Boston’s ongoing efforts to become a leading anti-racist and health promoting institution. The university commemorates Black Lives Matter Day every year on the first Monday of November.

The event was sponsored by Black Life; the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Student Equity, Access, and Success; Office of Community Partnerships; and Housing and Residential Life.

Student Wellness Support Improvements

Student wellness continues to be a top priority for the campus, especially in the Division of Student Affairs. With the aid of a state grant, the Counseling Center has hired two FTE counselor positions, reducing the student-to-counselor ratio, and invested in professional development for counseling and medical staff to enhance their ability to serve the diverse student population. Additionally, they have purchased vouchers that enable students to access counseling services in their own communities.

It is essential to recognize counseling cannot be the sole solution to a vexing national mental health emergency. Therefore, contributions from across the university are helping elevate a student-centered culture of wellness and mental health. University Health Services’ General Medicine has hired a new full-time health education specialist to be proactive in general wellness care. A multi-department effort yielded a campus Wellness Day in September, along with mindfulness sessions offered by the Interfaith Campus Ministry. Housing and Residence Life partnered with the Counseling Center to offer a tele-health space in the East Residence Hall to provide a private convenient space to make tele-health visits.

To this effect, U-ACCESS continues to support work to meet student food and housing security, critical elements of student wellness, at a time when food donations and affordable housing are greatly strained. This semester they have completed many outreach presentations in partnership with faculty to help get the word out about their services and have seen over 800 student client visits.

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



Golden Retriever dogs in training at Golden Opportunities for Independence, a Walpole-based nonprofit that UMass Boston Police is partnering with.

Campus Police Raising Funds to Bring Community Resource Dog to Campus

The UMass Boston Police Department is raising funds to bring a full-time community resource dog to campus, trained to provide comfort and serve as an ambassador for the department.

The golden retriever pup will work alongside UMass Boston police officers, greeting and interacting with students, staff, faculty, and visitors, and aid the department in better responding to areas of victim's advocacy, mental health, and trauma.

A community resource dog promotes greater self-esteem and focused interaction with other students and faculty members. Research has also shown that simply petting a dog lowers the stress hormone cortisol, while the social interaction between people and their dogs actually increases levels of the feel-good hormone oxytocin — a benefit for those processing traumatic events or everyday stressors.

UMBPD will partner with Golden Opportunities for Independence (GOFI), a Walpole-based nonprofit that breeds and trains dogs in the hopes of turning them into assets for the community at large.

"As an institution that aspires to be health promoting, this comfort dog program offers great possibility for our first responders to interact with our community in new ways that can promote wellness and safety," said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Karen Ferrer-Muñiz.

Eight universities in the state now have community resource dogs, and they are becoming commonplace in law enforcement agencies.

University Launched Climate Study This Fall

UMass Boston launched a study this fall aimed at better understanding the perceptions of students about the campus climate. The survey of the racial climate on the UMass Boston campus is being administered by the National Assessment of Collegiate Campus Climates (NACCC).

The NACCC is a quantitative survey that collects data about the campus communities' sentiments around issues of racial equity and diversity and the institutional commitment to racial equity, diversity, and inclusion, among other topics.

"UMass Boston wants to hear directly from students about their experiences on campus connected to racial identity," says Georgianna Meléndez, assistant chancellor in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. "We hope to learn, to understand, and to respond. This data will help us work with students to create a future where everyone feels as though they belong!"

Results will be available in the spring semester. At that time, university administration will work with our students, staff, and faculty to work on a plan of action.

Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace



Chancellor Suárez-Orozco greeted President Biden at the JFK Library and Museum in September.

President Biden Delivers Cancer Moonshot Remarks at JFK Library

UMass Boston moved to remote operations on Monday, September 12, to accommodate a visit by President Joe Biden to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. President Biden delivered remarks at the library highlighting the “Cancer Moonshot” initiative, an effort to cut the cancer death rate in half over the next quarter century. The UMass Boston community was delighted that President Biden chose Columbia Point to deliver such a historic speech.



UMass Boston Women's Tennis pose for a photo after their Little East Conference championship win.

Women's Tennis Wins First Little East Conference Crown

For the first time in the 27-year history of the program, UMass Boston Women's Tennis are Little East Conference Champions.

The Beacons bested Rhode Island College 5-2 on the BC High Tennis Courts in early October; Rhode Island College had previously won five consecutive LEC titles and was appearing in their seventh straight championship match.

“This is a historic moment for women's tennis, the program's first-ever LEC title. We set our goal on the first day of the season, and we could not be happier about how we finished,” Coach Harshana Godamanna said. “I'm very proud of the whole team for performing under pressure, and for all they have done to make this happen.”

The Beacons will await the NCAA Tournament bracket, which will come out next May, but are slated to play a handful of home matches during the spring, starting with Wheaton College in March 2023.



Governor-Elect Maura Healey and Lt. Governor-Elect Kim Driscoll met with Chancellor Suárez-Orozco and nursing students during a tour earlier this fall.

Governor-Elect Maura Healey Visits UMass Boston

Leading up to the November election, Massachusetts Attorney General and Governor-Elect Maura Healey and Salem Mayor and Lt. Governor-Elect Kim Driscoll toured UMass Boston's Center For Clinical Education and Research while on the campaign trail earlier this fall. They spoke to nursing students and watched demonstrations of new technology that the university is using. They were joined by Rob and Donna Manning—the namesakes of UMass Boston's Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace (cont.)

Chancellor Pens Op-Ed in *The Hill*

Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco wrote an opinion piece for *The Hill* on the influence of Latinos on American life, “Are Latinos becoming more Republican? Or just more American.” One of the fastest-growing groups in the U.S., Latinos now represent one in five people. But Latino influence goes beyond simple population growth. Latinos are making outsized contributions across American life, from business to science to professional sports to the arts.

“Latinos are doing more than assimilating. They are helping to remake American society,” he wrote. “So what does a ‘more American’ Latino look like and what does that mean for American life? S/he is close to family, immersed in tradition, more likely than the average American to attend religious services, and a believer in a strong government supports, entrepreneurship and capitalism. As our numbers and influence continue to grow, that’s also what an American will look like.”



UMass Boston Ranked Among Nation’s Best for Online Nursing Program

UMass Boston’s online Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BS) program has been named one of the best in the nation, according to RNtoMSN.org, a project of Degree Prospects, an organization that creates online tools for nursing students.

RNtoMSN.org ranked UMass Boston No. 21 in the country — and No. 1 in Massachusetts—out of over 500 schools offering online RN to BNS programs. In gathering the rankings, they analyzed programs for their academic reputation, student completions, debt and earnings data, and competitive admissions.

“Our nursing program at UMass Boston has a long history of excellence and this shows our programs are continually improving, graduating highly qualified nurses who are much needed and provide an outsized contribution to our hospitals and health care systems,” said Bo Fernhall, dean of the Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Improve Delivery of Administration and IT Services



Dean Tara L. Parker

New Dean Appointed to Lead College of Education and Human Development

Dr. Tara L. Parker has been appointed as UMass Boston’s new dean of the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), effective December 1, 2022. Dr. Parker has been a member of the UMass Boston community since 2005, when she arrived as an assistant professor of higher education in the department of Leadership in Education.

In the intervening years she has earned promotion to full professor and served with admirable distinction in a number of leadership roles, including seven years as chair of her department and most recently as interim dean of CEHD. A skilled collaborative leader who is dedicated to promoting anti-racism and inclusive excellence in higher education, Dr. Parker brings deep insight into and a dedication to UMass Boston. She is a leader of integrity who has elevated her department and CEHD, including being “the OC” (the Original Convenor) of the Cypher at UMass Boston, while also contributing significantly to the entire campus community.

“We are truly fortunate to have a leader in Dr. Parker who is so dedicated to our campus, who is a steadfast champion of our unique mission, and who brings extensive leadership skills to this vitally important role,” said Provost Joseph Berger.

Dr. Parker is an accomplished scholar whose research focuses on race, equity, and success in higher education with an emphasis on the application of critical race theory to higher education, the experiences and contributions of faculty of color, and the influence of public policy on developmental education.

Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise



The Project BEACON grant will increase direct waterfront access for research via UMass Boston's Fox Point Dock.

\$820K Grant to Boost BlueTech Innovation at UMass Boston

The Baker-Polito Administration awarded a new \$820,000 innovation grant to UMass Boston from the Seaport Economic Council (SEC), which will invest in new research and development tools on the waterfront campus and spur engagement with innovative BlueTech startups. The SEC's Innovation Grant program, managed by the Innovation Institute at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech), will also boost increased engagement between UMass Boston and the local BlueTech community through an expanded partnership with Boston-based SeaAhead, an organization launched in 2018 to support startups focused on innovation and sustainability in the world's oceans.

The new grant to Project BEACON (BlueTech, Energy, Aquaculture, Coastal, and Ocean Needs) will boost the core facilities at UMass Boston to better support small BlueTech startups and entrepreneurs that require advanced facilities to construct, test, and launch prototypes. The investment will allow for the purchase of a JetYak® autonomous surface vessel developed and designed at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and produced by Falmouth's Integrated Coastal Solutions. The purchase will expand the much-needed ocean floor mapping capabilities in the region.

The grant, spearheaded by School for the Environment Interim Dean Bob Chen, will also expand onsite facilities, including a machine shop and field prep facility, plus increase direct waterfront access for research via the Fox Point Dock. The expanded facilities will boost research opportunities for growing startups engaged through the SeaAhead partnership, but also grow BlueTech training opportunities for UMass Boston students.

Quantum Physics Professor Receives \$2.8M in Grants

Physics Professor Christopher Fuchs has received two major research awards to continue his work in the area of quantum physics, at a time when Nobel Prizes to three quantum physicists this fall has drawn renewed attention to this area of study.

Fuchs, whose area of focus is on Quantum Bayesianism and has coined the term QBism for his work, has been awarded a \$2.4 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation for a research project entitled "What is Metrology if Quantum Measurements Participate in Making Reality?" He also received a \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for a project entitled "Symmetric Informationally Complete Measurements and Quantum Computation."

The goal of the NSF project is developing an efficient language for quantum information processing, which will have influence across disciplines by connecting quantum mechanics and number theory. Funding from the Templeton Foundation will explore the science of precisely measuring physical quantities, or metrology, at the extreme reaches of the universe.

Researchers Explore the Relationship between Spiritual Practice and Political Engagement

Research has long shown that people who are very involved in religious groups also tend to be involved in political activities and other kinds of civic life. But today, more Americans do not affiliate with any religious tradition, and more of them are turning toward other kinds of meaningful spiritual practices that happen outside of conventional religious institutions.

In a new study recently published in *American Sociological Review*, UMass Boston Assistant Professor of Sociology Evan Stewart and Jaime Kucinkas of Hamilton College looked at survey data from the 2020 National Religion and Spirituality Survey to see whether people who reported frequent religious practices (like church attendance and prayer) and people who reported frequent spiritual practices (like yoga and meditation) were similar in their political engagement.

They compared how these two groups of spiritual and religious Americans vote, volunteer, and otherwise get involved in their communities. They found that high spiritual practitioners were just as politically engaged as high religious practitioners. Their research has been featured at *Religion News Service*, *The Conversation*, and Channel Q Radio.

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

Nursing PhD Students Travel to Malawi to Research Preventative Healthcare for Women

Nursing PhD candidates Deogwoon Kim and SangA Lee traveled to Malawi this past spring to conduct research for their dissertations on women's health.

Building on the UMass Boston connection with Malawi that was formed by their mentor and advisor Professor of Nursing Haeok Lee, who has previously traveled to Malawi to provide cervical cancer testing, Kim and Lee's research focuses on preventative health care for Malawian women.

Kim's dissertation on cervical cancer screening behavior among women in Malawi with a specific focus on human papillomavirus infection (HPV) screening tests explores how willing Malawian women are to embrace new self-sampling screening tests that have the potential to reduce health care barriers. Lee's dissertation on tuberculosis (TB) transmission prevention behaviors among women living with HIV and TB in Malawi leads with a hygiene-geo-temporal approach.

Through their work in the local communities, Kim and Lee found that women's health care goes hand-in-hand with women's empowerment, and that providing efficient preventative care can only be achieved through health care education.

Center for Sustainable Enterprise and Regional Competitiveness Awarded 2-Year, \$350,000 Grant from EPA

The Center for Sustainable Enterprise and Regional Competitiveness (SERC) at UMass Boston was awarded a two-year \$350,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to provide technical assistance in implementing pollution prevention and sustainability strategies and tools to craft breweries in Massachusetts. The project's overall goal is to work with other New England states to develop a uniform program for encouraging and recognizing craft breweries' adoption of pollution prevention and sustainability practices.

The Massachusetts craft beer industry has a significant economic impact in the state and is growing rapidly. In 2007, when the Massachusetts Brewers Guild was formed, there were 34 breweries; in 2021, the number increased to 214, with another 30 new breweries expected to open in 2022. The industry contributed \$2.1 billion to the state in 2019 and employed about 6,500 people. At the same time, beer manufacturing is a very water- and energy-intensive process, generating a significant amount of waste (both liquid and solid waste) and greenhouse gas emissions. The beer-making process typically uses some toxic chemicals for cleaning and sterilizing between batches. Small craft breweries often lack the resources to improve efficiency and reduce costs and environmental impacts, even though the industry is very committed to sustainability.

"This grant will enable UMass Boston to support the sustainability transition of an important and fast-growing industry in Massachusetts while training business students in pollution prevention and sustainability," said Vesela Veleva, senior lecturer in management, and co-director of SERC. "Graduate and undergraduate students taking environmental management classes will have an opportunity to work with local breweries and gain real-life experience in implementing pollution prevention strategies."

Renew the Faculty

Jean Rhodes Receives Maccoby Book Award

Jean Rhodes, the Frank L. Boyden Professor of Psychology and director of the Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring, has been named the 2023 winner of the prestigious Eleanor Maccoby Book Award from the American Psychological Association's Developmental Psychology Division for her new book, *Older and Wiser: New Ideas for Youth Mentoring in the 21st Century*. The Maccoby Award honors a book in the field of psychology that has had or promises to have a profound effect on developmental psychology, including promoting "high standards for the application of scientific knowledge on human development to public policy issues."

Older and Wiser draws on more than thirty years of empirical research to survey the state of youth mentoring and concludes that there's insufficient evidence that even the most well-known mentoring programs are effective. Despite the sobering findings, Rhodes also shows that new, evidence-based approaches can in fact create meaningful change in young people's lives.

"The most common mentoring programs are failing to live up to their expectations, and part of the reason is that there's not a lot of structure," Rhodes said. "Today's young people face so many challenges, and mentors can help. Building a relationship through shared activities is fine, but we need to leverage that relationship."

Increase Endowment

UMass Boston and MathWorks to Launch Employment Pathway for STEM Scholars

Natick-based software developer MathWorks is partnering with the university to establish the MathWorks Scholars Program, a new career-readiness initiative designed to expand early-career opportunities for UMass Boston students, build a diverse and highly trained pipeline of job candidates for MathWorks and its peers, and increase the number of people with underrepresented identities working in the region's technology sector. Over the next four years, starting in spring 2023, the program will provide half-tuition scholarships to 20 undergraduate students with financial need whose career interests align with professional roles at MathWorks.

Each cohort of MathWorks Scholars will engage in extensive college-success and career-readiness programming, guided by a designated academic and career advisor. The program is underwritten by a \$1 million grant from the MathWorks Foundation, the company's philanthropic arm. Separate from this funding, MathWorks will also provide paid internships, including travel stipends, to UMass Boston students, with priority given to MathWorks Scholars.

McMillan-Stewart Foundation Endows Scholarship for Boston Public School Graduates

The McMillan-Stewart Foundation, a long-time supporter of UMass Boston's Urban Scholars Program, has created the \$900,000 Geneviève McMillan-Reba Stewart Endowed Scholarship Fund for graduates of Boston Public Schools with financial need. Through Urban Scholars, the foundation already helps more than 80 BPS students preparing for college each year. Thirty-two of those scholars have enrolled as freshmen at UMass Boston over the past five years, along with approximately 2,200 of their BPS peers. The new endowed scholarship will help generations of students like them achieve their goals in higher education and beyond.



Chancellor Suárez-Orozco congratulates recipients Robert A. Sanborn '81, Anne (Scordino) Larkin '59, Tariana V. Little '12, G'17, and Paul J. Dyson, Jr. '00 at the annual awards luncheon.

Beacon Awards Honor Alumni for Commitment to Excellence in Community

The UMass Boston Alumni Association honored four alumni at the annual Beacon Awards Celebration in October. Formerly known as the Alumni Achievement Awards, the Beacon Awards recognize alumni who have distinguished themselves from their peers. They are comprised of the Emerging Leader Award, the Distinguished Alumni Award, and the Outstanding Service Award, the latter two of which acknowledge alumni from both UMass Boston and its predecessor school Boston State College. Nominations are encouraged for alumni who have attained notable achievement and have made a lasting contribution through their professional, philanthropic, or volunteering endeavors. This year's award recipients were Tariana V. Little '12, G'17; Robert A. Sanborn '81; Paul J. Dyson, Jr. '00; and Anne (Scordino) Larkin '59.

Family Honors Late Alumnus, Establishes Transformative Scholarship

A scholarship fund to honor the memory of late alumnus Christian Bill '99 was recently established by his family. Bill graduated magna cum laude from UMass Boston with a double major in biology and chemistry. During his time at the university, he was an active member of Big Brother/Big Sister in Boston. He also tutored students in biology, math, and chemistry. To honor Bill and the role he played in their family as "teacher, protector, and entertainer," his family created a \$150,000 endowed scholarship, which will benefit full-time UMass Boston students majoring in biology or chemistry.

Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service



Chancellor Suárez-Orozco spoke to new citizens at a State House naturalization ceremony.

Chancellor Suárez-Orozco Welcomes 49 New Citizens Sworn in at the Massachusetts State House

On September 16, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco spoke at a special naturalization ceremony held by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts at the Massachusetts State House. As part of the USCIS's annual Constitution Week and Citizenship Day celebrations, 49 new citizens representing 29 different countries from around the world were sworn in in the Hall of Flags.

Chancellor Suárez-Orozco addressed the crowd of new citizens and their families, congratulating them on marking the culmination of their extraordinary journeys. As an immigrant himself, Chancellor Suárez-Orozco spoke about his own journey arriving to the United States “with nothing more and nothing less than a dream and the human agency to seek something better for myself.”

Acknowledging the conflicts and division the country faces today, Chancellor Suárez-Orozco encouraged the crowd to embrace civility and to listen, appreciate differences, and show mutual respect and goodwill. He told the new citizens that citizen engagement is “what makes the land of possibilities possible” and that citizenship is a feeling and emotion that “lives in the heart” and gives us a common purpose.

“Our country has shaped generations of immigrants into proud Americans and generations of immigrants have shaped our country for the better,” he said. “So now it is your turn. Channel the feelings, the emotions, the sense of pride, the joyous effervescence of the day into purpose and civility.”



Focus group participants watch the governor's debate at UMass Boston.

McCormack Co-Hosts Massachusetts Governor Debate with WCVB

On October 20, the John W. McCormack School of Policy and Global Studies, in cooperation with WCVB-TV, hosted a focus group for the final gubernatorial debate between Attorney General Maura Healey and Republican candidate Geoff Diehl. The focus group was featured live on-air during breaks in the debate, with a follow-up story which broadcasted the next day on WCVB-5.

Around 25 participants traveled to UMass Boston to participate in the focus group, hosted by Sharman Saccheti and the WCVB NewsCenter 5 team. During the debate, voters were asked to give their opinions on each candidate's responses to questions via Mentimeter, an application which allowed them to voice support or discontent with an answer or response to a question. The event was followed by a debriefing session led by McCormack Dean Rita Kiki Edozie, who helmed a conversation—with the support of other McCormack faculty and staff members—regarding the group's opinions and feelings about the performance of both candidates during the evening's debate.

Maintain and Improve Affordability and Access

Building Tomorrow's One Stop

When first introduced in 2004, UMass Boston's One Stop was a cutting-edge concept to enhance administrative services to students across functional areas at a single location. Students could walk in and receive assistance with a variety of questions and needs as they relate to the registrar, financial aid services, and billing. Over time, additional service channels have been added to increase convenience, including email, live chat, and virtual appointments. Most recently, One Stop staff has become responsible for answering the Bursar's Office phone line and there are plans to introduce a call center model as the next expansion of service.

Although the One Stop has continued to enhance and innovate to meet consumer need, the physical layout has not changed and is no longer appropriate for the many modalities of service delivery. Enrollment Management is working with Campus Master Planning to reimagine the space to ensure that it is optimized for a wide variety of service channels and future growth. The new look and layout will include a welcoming front of house for dedicated walk-in service, comfortable seating, space for a greeter, and updating of the existing self-service area. The back office will provide shared office spaces optimized for phone and virtual service. The design also includes the introduction of a conference room to support the ongoing staff training vital to providing comprehensive and quality customer service.



Beacon Ambassadors get ready at this fall's open house.

Open House Programs Draw Large Crowds

UMass Boston has seen a steady increase in prospective student interest over the last few years. Visiting college is a critical component of the search process and in order to meet demand for on-campus visits, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions expanded their open house program offerings and held two this fall. More than 1,600 students registered for the two programs and upwards of 950 students attended – more than doubling the total number of registrants and attendees from last year's November 2021 open house.

Students who attend an open house program are nearly twice as likely to apply to the university, and so more than doubling this year's attendance at an open house program helps boost applications. These campus-wide showcase events are already having an impact, as evidenced in Early Action I applications, which have increased more than 12 percent over last year.

UMass Boston Hosts First Family Weekend

Earlier this fall, Student Affairs hosted the campus's first Family Weekend, with 24 events offered over three days. An estimated 156 families, totaling 502 people, attended. Efforts like these, along with a new family communication system that disseminates regular updates, are essential to help support family members that we know are vital for student success, especially for a largely first-generation student population.