



# Report to the Board of Trustees

from the University of Massachusetts Boston

December 2021

## To the Board:

I am pleased to present this quarterly report highlighting the progress we have made in enacting the mission of the University of Massachusetts Boston.

I am profoundly heartened by all that we have accomplished this fall in building on UMass Boston's distinctive strengths: our commitment to being an anti-racist, health-promoting public research university; our dedication to advancing knowledge collaboratively in the service of the greater good; and our devotion to innovative, student-centered teaching. That we have done so as the COVID pandemic continues to impact all aspects of campus life is a tribute to the resilience of our faculty, staff, and students.

- UMass Boston's research profile was bolstered by securing several major grants—across disciplines and on timely, relevant issues. Among them: \$1.2 million from NASA to support a program at the School for the Environment aimed at is expanding pathways for young people of color in Massachusetts to pursue STEM careers; and \$5.9 million from the U.S. Department of Education to support translation and dissemination of research/best practices on inclusive post-secondary education for students with intellectual disability. (Page 6)
- The UMass Boston community affirmed our insistence on equity, diversity, and social justice with several campus-wide events, including our second annual Black Lives Matter Day; a weeklong celebration of our first-generation students; and the unveiling of an extraordinary mural created by Robert Peters, an artist from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, to mark Indigenous Peoples Day. Meanwhile, our Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences partnered with Mass General Brigham on initiatives to increase diversity in nursing. (Page 4, 8)
- Provost Joseph Berger strengthened UMass Boston's administration by promoting two faculty members into key leadership positions. Professor of American Studies Lynnell Thomas was appointed as associate vice provost for inclusive excellence and Professor Denise Patmon is the new director of the Office for Faculty Development. (Page 9)

I trust you will appreciate this report on our progress.

—Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco



*Sheena Collier, founder and CEO of Boston While Black, speaks at a Black Lives Matter Day panel.*

## BLM Day at UMass Boston reflects on progress, opportunities

It's one thing to say "Black Lives Matter." But when people came together for Black Lives Matter Day at UMass Boston, it was for a different purpose: truly understanding what it means.

Faculty, staff, students, and dozens of online participants engaged in workshops and a panel discussion, learned from expert speakers, and attended a mural presentation all centered on the year's theme: empowerment through collective leading. This day of learning, activism, and reflection is intended to represent the university's commitment to honoring Black lives and eliminating anti-Black racism at the systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels.

"I believe that celebrating Black Lives Matter Day is vital to UMass Boston in our efforts to becoming a leading anti-racist and health-promoting institution," Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco said. "As a university community of educators and scholars, we seek to expand the essential dialogue about intersecting identities and lived experiences as we continue our endeavors to create a more inclusive, humane, just, and respectful UMass Boston."

UMass Boston commemorates Black Lives Matter Day every year on the first Monday of November.

The community heard from a heavy-hitting panel about the social and economic progress that Black communities have made to this point, and the long road ahead, much of which is being driven by them and their colleagues around the city. During a mural presentation, organizers spoke the names of 10 Black men and women murdered for the color of their skin and called for a moment of silence. The names of these men and women were added to the Black Lives Matter Mural in the residence halls.

The day concluded with a call to action for the UMass Boston community: "Even as we open up the campus to the incredible beauty of our environment on this peninsula, we must also open it to the dazzling beauty of the cultural environment that is who we are," Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Steve Neville said.

## POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE

### U.S. News: UMass Boston Once Again a Top Tier National University

For the sixth year in a row, UMass Boston has been ranked in the top tier of national universities, according to a report released by *U.S. News and World Report*. The school's undergraduate nursing program was also ranked among the best in the country in the first-ever rankings of such programs by U.S. News, coming in strongly at No. 43.

Citing positive marks on class sizes, faculty expertise, and graduation rates, UMass Boston tied with several other schools for No. 227 in the 2022 Best National University Rankings. The university also received high marks in other categories in the report, ranking No. 36 in the nation for social mobility, No. 19 for ethnic diversity, and No. 112 overall among national public universities.

The report's inaugural ranking of undergraduate nursing programs vaulted UMass Boston high on the list, joining several other top-ranked programs at the Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Earlier this year, U.S. News ranked the school as No. 63 on its list of best master's in nursing programs, and No. 86 on its list of best doctor of nursing practice programs.



*Participants learn about a shoreline restoration project at Coughlin Park in Winthrop during a conference field trip.*

### Environmental Experts Gather at UMass Boston to Discuss Climate Change, Boston Harbor

More than 100 of the state's foremost coastal scientists, biologists, and climate researchers came together for a virtual conference at UMass Boston this October hosted by the Stone Living Lab and the Boston Harbor Ecosystem Network. The day of virtual workshops focused on a single goal: combatting the impacts of climate change on the state's most vulnerable coastal regions in and around Boston Harbor.

The goal of the conference, named Resilient Boston Harbor: Research for a Sustainable Future, was to discuss research needs for lowering coastal flood risks in Boston Harbor using nature-based approaches and also protecting and restoring ecosystems in the harbor.

The conference included "lightning talks" with researchers from around the region, including UMass Boston alumna Kathleen Theoharides, secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Attendees also participated in a poster session, and breakout sessions that split them into smaller collaborative discussion groups and focused on new areas of exploration around the harbor's ecosystems.

### CSM Alum Wins Prestigious National Academic Award in Physics

Joseph Farah '21 has won the prestigious LeRoy Apker award from the American Physical Society, the highest honor awarded to undergraduate physics students in the United States, for his contributions to the Event Horizon Telescope's (EHT) success in taking the first image of a black hole. Farah developed the selective dynamical imaging method with applications for studying rapidly-varying black holes.

Farah's work was reported in a paper submitted to *The Astrophysical Journal* and was a large part of his contribution as the only undergraduate student to be a part of the EHT Collaboration. The 347-member team won a \$3 million Breakthrough Prize for their scientific achievement.

As a physics major and Honors College student, Farah's academic excellence was recognized in several ways, including when he received the 2019 National Science Foundation Diamond Achievement Award and the 2019 Barry Goldwater Scholarship Award. Farah is enrolled as a first-year PhD astrophysics student and NSF Fellow at the University of California Santa Barbara, doing research in supernova and dark energy with Andy Howell at the Las Cumbres Observatory.

### Chancellor Suárez-Orozco Calls For Renewed Commitment to Truth at Global Conference

Speaking at the historic Casina Pio IV in the Vatican Gardens in September, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and UMass President Marty Meehan spoke of how truth is under assault across domains and how higher education must play a crucial role in society's response.

The two-day workshop, "Truth and Post-Truth in Communication, Media, and Society," was organized by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, a scholarly body that brings together world-renowned academics from multiple denominations, continents, and backgrounds to study pressing issues of the day. Suárez-Orozco was appointed to the executive council of PASS by Pope Francis in 2019.

"As public university leaders in the state that invented public education, we are especially concerned with advancing truths that flow from historically constituted scholarly disciplines with shared schemas and agreed upon practices," Suárez-Orozco said. "The very life form that animates the work of the modern research university—our DNA—is the pursuit of truths."



## DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE



*Students, staff, faculty, administrators, and service members past and present joined the Veterans Day celebration in the Campus Center.*

### UMass Boston Honors Its Veterans

On the eve of Veterans Day, the UMass Boston community came together to honor veterans, past and present, and reflect on the meaning of their service and sacrifice at a Celebration of Service.

Colonel Cheryl Lussier Poppe, secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services, thanked the university for its history of support for the veteran community. More than 600 veterans are currently enrolled at UMass Boston.

"I'm very grateful for the fact that UMass Boston has such a large veteran community, and that it's so well supported by the school," Colonel Poppe said. "Sometimes it's not easy trying to come back from service and then getting back into that whole routine of going to school again."

Muhaned Ghabour '22, whose brother passed away last year during a peace-keeping mission in Egypt, received the Arredondo Brothers' Memorial Scholarship, one of several scholarships given to current students who served or lost a loved one in the line of duty. The annual event is sponsored by Enrollment Management, the William Joiner Institute, and the Student Veterans Center.

### Community Leader Mel King Donates Papers to Archives

The Africana Studies Department and the Joseph P. Healey Library have acquired the Melvin H. King papers, which will be preserved and made publicly available for research by the University Archives and Special Collections Department. The papers comprise 80 boxes of original archival materials documenting King's lifetime of work as a Boston-based organizer, politician, activist, mayoral candidate, and educator.

Topics include restorative justice, housing, education, agriculture and urban farming, advocacy for formerly incarcerated people, and computer literacy training. Among the materials in the collection are articles, audiovisual materials, books, correspondence, journals and notebooks, magazines, newspapers and newsletters, pamphlets and flyers, photographs and slides, poetry, reports, speeches and campaign materials, and various ephemera.

This acquisition was made possible by Professor Jemadari Kamara and Senior Lecturer Tony Van Der Meer in the Africana Studies Department.

The Archives in the Healey Library also recently acquired the papers of Charlotte Golar Richie, who has had a long career in politics and public policy work in Massachusetts, and Boston State College alum Dan Rea, an award-winning broadcaster and news reporter.



*The team at the Center for Survey Research. Clockwise back left: Lee Hargraves, Tony Roman, Carol Cosenza, Ebony Haley, Dragana Bolcic-Jankovic, and Kathryn Bell.*

### Center for Survey Research Marks 50 Years

UMass Boston's Center for Survey Research has spent half a century tracking people's opinion on some of the commonwealth's biggest challenges and informing policymakers on what they can do to solve them. Most recently, the center captured the quickly evolving public opinions of the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines, presenting nuanced findings to help public officials work to stem the spread of the disease.

Brought to a young UMass Boston campus in 1971 by then-president of UMass Robert Wood, the center has measured public opinion and attitudes toward some of the region's biggest issues, including housing, healthcare, and the environment.

The Center for Survey Research is meant to be a tool for agencies, state organizations, and any organization that collects data. The center's recent work on COVID-19 is reflective of its broader commitment to serving the public, the very reason it was moved to UMass Boston 50 years ago, and the reasoning that continues to drive its work today.

## MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS



*Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco celebrates with first-gen students.*

### University Celebrates First Gen Week

More than half of UMass Boston students are the first in their families to attend college. This November, the campus celebrated First Gen Week, an annual lineup of workshops and events that recognize these first-gen Beacons, highlight the resources available to them, and help them to create connections. The week featured a celebration of National First-Generation College Day, a resource fair, and career workshop, along with other events.

### College of Management Launches One Price Tuition Option for MBA Students

Students have numerous flexible tuition options to choose from when pursuing their MBA at UMass Boston. One new opportunity is the One Price Tuition Option (OPTO), an MBA with a locked-in tuition rate of \$25,000. MBA students can opt-in to this program any time before the start of their second semester and have up to five years to complete the degree. This guaranteed tuition option is designed for flexible online learning but allows students to take up to two face-to-face classes. International students can take up to two face-to-face classes a semester to meet International students' F1-visa requirements.

### MCNHS Partners with Hospital to Increase Diversity in Nursing

The Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences (MCNHS) is partnering with Mass General Brigham (MGB) on several initiatives to increase diversity in nursing. The first initiative, between MCNHS and Guardia Banister at MGB, is a 2.0 reinvention of the Clinical Leadership Collaborative for Diversity in Nursing (CLCDN), a leadership and scholarship initiative dedicated to increasing the diversity of the registered nurse workforce at the hospital system. CLCDN provides clinical leadership development opportunities to ethnically diverse, socioeconomically disadvantaged nursing students at UMass Boston who have demonstrated academic excellence, the promise of success, and leadership potential.

This fall 17 students were selected as CLCDN Fellows and will be supported by this MGB initiative. Another initiative, which just appeared in the Boston Globe, will see 10 diverse nursing fellows explore behavioral health opportunities at MGB. This partnership is scheduled to begin in Spring 2022. Altogether, MGB has invested over \$700,000 in these two new initiatives to increase diversity in nursing.

## DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE



*Rendering of the completed rotary island and flagpoles*

### Campus Unveils Newly Landscaped Rotary at Entrance

People entering the UMass Boston campus from Morrissey Boulevard will soon be greeted with a newly landscaped rotary, which includes an island planted with coastal grasses and a gravel pathway leading to three flagpoles. Completion of the rotary, which serves as a connecting junction between Bianculli Boulevard, University Drive South, and University Drive West, marks the conclusion of one of the final projects remaining from the campus's Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation project.

Since undergoing major construction, the university has not had flagpoles. These flagpoles will fly the American flag, the POW flag, and the university flag to greet commuters and visitors to our campus.



*Wheels electric bikes arrived on campus on October 15.*

### Wheels Brings E-Bikes to UMass Boston and the MBTA

UMass Boston has partnered with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and Wheels, a leading shared mobility company, to offer dockless electric bikes on campus. These bikes are stationed at various highly trafficked areas on campus to provide swift transit between campus building and parking areas.



## ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE



*ProBlak speaks to American Studies 263: The History of Hip-Hop and Hip-Hop as History.*

### Boston Art Icon Visits Two UMass Boston Classes

Rob “ProBlak” Gibbs, a critically-acclaimed artist who started tagging the city in the early '90s, visited campus in October to deliver guest lectures in two classes and work on a mural. Gibbs joined students in *The History of Hip-Hop and Hip-Hop as History* and *The World of Hip-Hop: An Inside View* to talk about his life's work, his experience as a Black artist in Boston, and how hip-hop was influential in his upbringing and work around the city.

The Boston art icon was invited to campus by Boston rapper and Honors College lecturer Akrobatik, and Jeff Melnick, a professor of American Studies in the College of Liberal Arts. Melnick says Gibbs has used his artwork to tear down the “walls that so often divide us across neighborhoods, across groups usually divided by age or race or socioeconomic status.”

### Student Affairs Aids the Return of Campus Life to Columbia Point

As the UMass Boston community returned to campus this fall, the Student Affairs team helped rekindle the campus life that had been missed by so many during the remote months. Student Activities and the Student Arts and Events Council offered a robust schedule of more than 40 Welcome Week events including a volunteer fair, trivia, and the annual Chancellor's Barbeque.

The Dean of Students Office hired 16 Welcome Ambassadors to provide directions and answer questions at key campus locations, providing more than 200 hours of service. Additionally, more than 8,000 users logged in to UMBInvolved, the campus's activities portal, in the first two weeks back on campus.

The return of campus life for Student Affairs was also rooted in providing for the essential needs of students. While care for students was strong throughout the pandemic, the return to campus provided opportunities to offer support through on-campus interactions. In the first two weeks of classes, the U-ACCESS food pantry distributed 5,000 pounds of food to student clients.

### Clinical Psychology PhD Student Receives Dissertation Award

Alison Chavez, an advanced student in the Clinical Psychology Program working with Professor Alice Carter, has received a 2021 Dissertation Research Funding Award from the Society for Research in Child Development's Student and Early Career Council.

Awards are given to dissertation research proposals that are exceptionally noteworthy and display a strong potential to contribute to the field of child development. Each recipient is awarded \$2,000 to use for research costs related to the proposed dissertation project.

Chavez's research focuses on increasing access to culturally responsive diagnostic and intervention services for young children from marginalized backgrounds who are at risk for delays or challenges in social-emotional and behavioral functioning.



*Zoa Archer as Juliet and Abigail Dickson as Romeo in this fall's production*

### Romeo and Juliet Opens in U Hall, Ending Two Years of a Dark Theater

The Performing Arts Department staged its first live, in-person performance in roughly two years in November, performing a modern twist on *Romeo and Juliet* for a limited audience of students, faculty, and staff.

Director Robert Lublin set Shakespeare's most celebrated love-story in the near future, amidst an on-going pandemic that has left the world in chaos, but says that even in a world that's fractured and anxious “love is the answer.” Shakespeare lived during the time of the Bubonic Plague, but *Romeo and Juliet* is the only one of his plays that mentions it, and has characters impacted by its ominous threat.

“Our theatre has been dark for two years now, studying and doing productions online,” Lublin said. “I can't think of a more appropriate play to turn the lights back on with. It's about, ultimately, love as a response to a complex and fractured world. Love for each other, for our community, and even those we think of as our enemies.”

Juliet is played by Zoa Archer opposite recent alum Abigail Dickson '20 as Romeo.

## STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE

**\$3.7 Million Grant Helps Researchers Support Elementary Educators**

When a student struggles with behavior in the classroom, how should an educator try to solve it? It depends on who you ask. A researcher might say to use a research-based solution—also known as an intervention—to address the issue. A teacher, on the other hand, might say those solutions are too cumbersome, and are hard to implement in the moment.

The contrast between research and practice illustrates the divide when it comes to solving behavior issues in the classroom. Educators often struggle to deliver research-based interventions consistently or completely, given everything already on their plate.

But there's a way to bridge the divide, says a team of researchers at UMass Boston, and they've just received a \$3.7 million grant to prove it.

The funding, which comes from the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, was awarded to Melissa Collier-Meek and Nedim Yel, two researchers from the UMass Boston College of Education and Human Development's Department of Counseling and School Psychology, and Lisa Sanetti, their colleague at the University of Connecticut. It will allow them to study the impacts of giving teachers the support they need to apply data-backed behavioral interventions in the classroom and implement them with students and teachers in Massachusetts and Connecticut schools.

**NASA Awards Program \$1.2M to Help Diversifying STEM**

Despite a broad consensus in the STEM field that having more people of color in the workforce leads to better outcomes and solutions, building authentic diversity in the industry remains a challenge. The pipeline of young people, students, and emerging professionals in science, technology, and math does not reflect the diversity the field is striving for, and for those who do pursue the career track, they often are missing the support to make it through.

A program at UMass Boston's School for the Environment (SFE) is working to increase the pathways to a successful career in the industry for people of color in Massachusetts, and NASA recently awarded it \$1.2 million in funding to support their effort. SFE Dean Bob Chen, along with professors Shirley Tang, Arthur Eisenkraft, Crystal Schaaf, Kim Hamad-Schifferli, and Cedric Woods are leading the work.

PATHS, or Partners Aligned to Heighten Broad Participation in STEM, provides support from the moment a child's interest in science is sparked to the path to college and all the way through to working professionals and their companies. It has built a coalition of private sector companies committed to boosting diversity. iRobot, Hack.Diversity, the Museum of Science, and the Christie McAuliffe Center have already signed on.



*Maria Ivanova with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan*

**Center for Governance and Sustainability Receives \$500K Grant from Carnegie Corporation**

As world leaders converged in Glasgow to take stock of progress on the Paris Agreement on global climate change, there were questions about the effectiveness of the international accord.

Associate Professor of Global Governance and Director of the Center for Governance and Sustainability Maria Ivanova and her team at the Center for Governance and Sustainability in the McCormack Graduate School have been granted \$500,000 from Carnegie Corporation of New York to develop the next stage of the Environmental Conventions Index, the center's multi-year project that explores the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and seeks to create mechanisms for holding governments accountable.

This phase of the project will also include the development of an interactive and dynamic web-based index and will support Ivanova's efforts to reimagine environmental multilateralism by creating a network of small states through connecting officials across countries on issues involving negotiation and implementation of multilateral agreements.

Ivanova said the team has started collecting analytics that are important for building the new network and will be putting out a call for proposals from small states that are interested in becoming a part of the network and are committed to making a difference in environmental multilateralism.

## STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE (CONT.)



(From left) Dr. Kai Zou, doctoral student Benjamin Kugler, and undergraduate students Nana Lin, Baby Lenga Kalemba, Amira Sesay, and Atsutaro A. Fujishiro

### New Exercise and Health Sciences NIH Research Grant Tackles Obesity, Type 2 Diabetes

With the prevalence of obesity in the U.S. reaching nearly 40 percent in recent years, more people are likely to experience impaired insulin action in the skeletal muscle—a key feature of obesity—resulting in insulin resistance and often Type 2 diabetes.

Assistant Professor of Exercise and Health Sciences Kai Zou and his UMass Boston colleagues have received a three-year \$455,847 National Institutes of Health R15 grant to work toward discovering new targets to regulate skeletal muscle insulin sensitivity with the goal of developing early treatments for Type 2 diabetes.

Zou will collaborate on this interdisciplinary research project with co-investigators Associate Professor of Exercise and Health Sciences Philimon Gona, Associate Professor of Chemistry Jason Evans, and Assistant Professor of Computer Science Ozgun Babur, who will provide support and train students.

### Sustainable Solutions Lab Releases Working Paper on Climate and Housing Crises

Although unaffordable housing and climate change adversely affect the lives of Boston area residents, especially those of low- and moderate-income people and people of color, there isn't an established body of academic research, municipal plans, or an advocacy agenda that addresses these crises systematically and simultaneously.

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, in partnership with the Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston, has released a working paper identifying some key research questions that could substantially advance the ability to make investments that support housing stability and respond to climate change at the same time. To understand the intersecting challenges, a wide range of practitioners were brought together to inform this research agenda.

### Professor Receives Grant to Commercialize Amplifiers for Quantum Computers

Assistant Professor of Engineering Matthew Bell has received a \$395,000 grant through the National Science Foundation's Small Business Technology Transfer program in partnership with Millimeter Wave Systems, a local small business in Boston, to commercialize and market amplifier technology for quantum computing.

In 2016, Bell received a three-year NSF standard grant to further his research into quantum limited amplifiers. The amplifier technology is used to boost weak signals present inside prototype quantum computers to read information stored in "quantum bits."

Due to the success of the research from the 2016 grant, Bell applied for a patent for the amplifier, and Millimeter Wave Systems became the licensee. Through his partnership with Millimeter Wave Systems, the project received \$1.2 million in grants, which will support the process of commercializing and producing Bell's innovation.

### New Federal Grant Will Allow for Expanded Work on Inclusive Postsecondary Education

Think College, based at UMass Boston's Institute for Community Inclusion, and its partner institutions have been awarded a \$5.9 million three-year award from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education to expand their work of translating and disseminating research and best practices on inclusive postsecondary education for colleges and universities across the country.

The Think College Network's National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center will expand the work of the Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability National Coordinating Center to address several persistent challenges facing inclusive postsecondary education for students with intellectual disability (ID). Think College Network will help colleges and universities develop, evaluate, improve, and expand their inclusive postsecondary education programs and inclusive practices for students with ID.

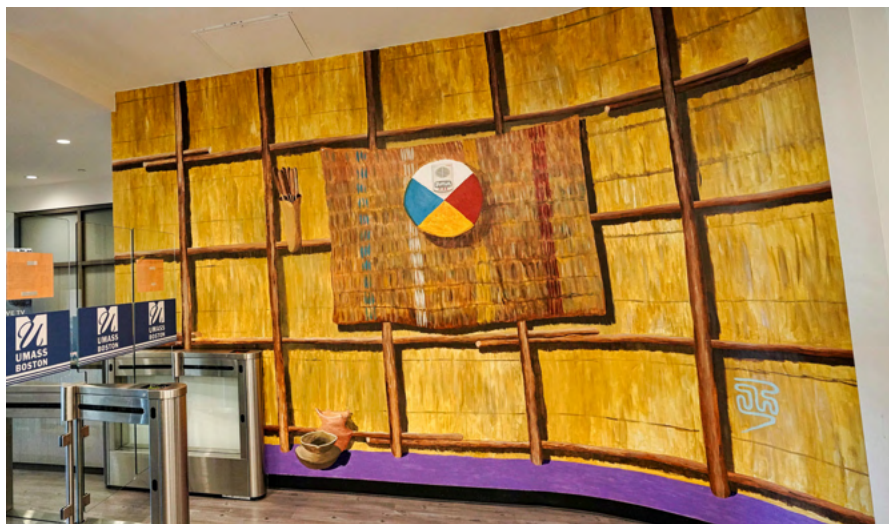
### Gastón Institute Report Lays Bare Key Gaps in Development for Latino Children

The Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy recently released *A Portrait of Latino Children: The Gap with Non-Latinos in Massachusetts*, a report that describes in detail the educational, health, environmental, and socioeconomic challenges faced by Latino children—one of the fastest growing segments of the Massachusetts population—and the impacts those gaps have on individual outcomes.

The population of Latino children is growing at a faster rate than white, Black, and Asian children in Massachusetts, according to the 2020 Decennial Census. Their preparation for adulthood is essential for Massachusetts' future economic, political, and social well-being, says Phillip Granberry, a research associate at the Gastón Institute. The report suggests that Latino children are not receiving the institutional support they need during this transition to adulthood.



## CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE



One focal point of the new mural is the depiction of a medicine wheel, which is used for a variety of healing and teaching practices.

### New Mural Welcomes Native Students to UMass Boston Campus

To welcome students to campus this year, and emphasize that UMass Boston is still Indigenous space, Robert Peters, an artist and member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, created a mural in the residence hall that is based on a 32-foot-long longhouse he helped build on Mashpee Land.

Peters created this mural to help Native students feel more at home. This mural also encourages non-Native students to think about what “home” means, while also making them feel at home as a guest to the territory. The design depicts a wall in a traditional Eastern Woodlands home and includes representations and symbols of Mashpee Wampanoag culture.

UMass Boston is on the traditional land of Massachusetts people. UMass Boston's Institute for New England Native American Studies and Native American and Indigenous Studies program reached out to Peters to design and paint the mural.

### University Works to Make Digital Platforms More Inclusive

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI), in collaboration with Student Affairs, IT, the Registrar's Office, and other campus units has undertaken a project with broad scope that will make UMass Boston's digital platforms more inclusive for students and employees of all gender identities and sexualities.

The Inclusive Identities Initiative streamlines processes for updating “Chosen Names” in PeopleSoft, email addresses, and on Beacon Cards in order to prevent misgendering and minimize the emotional labor required of trans and nonbinary identifying community members. Special Assistants Andrea Macone (ODEI) and Mike Metzger (Student Affairs) were named project cosponsors when this work expanded to an intercampus initiative overseen by the UMass President's Office. The Boston campus has demonstrated leadership in its advance work prior to the beginning of the collaborative intercampus efforts. Ultimately, the project will create opportunities for individuals to select chosen names, pronouns, and sexuality in certain virtual spaces; this data will allow for better tracking of student success initiatives and advocacy.

### University's Recovery Community Rebrands as Beacons of Hope

Under the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion's leadership, UMass Boston's collegiate recovery community (CRC) rebranded itself as Beacons of Hope. Meeting weekly, the peer-led support group provides a sense of community to students recovering from substance use disorders and other mental health conditions while bridging those students with professional services available through the Counseling Center and off-campus resources. Students involved with Beacons of Hope have connected with CRCs at Tufts University, Harvard University, Bridgewater State University, and other schools to create a weekly virtual meeting and extend the group across campuses. This intercollegiate group has also built relationships with Massachusetts' five recovery high schools to establish a path to higher education for the commonwealth's youth with substance use histories.

## STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE (CONT.)



Journal of Aging and Social Policy

### Department of Gerontology Produces Journal on Impacts of COVID-19

A special double issue of the *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*, which is published at UMass Boston, highlights research and perspectives on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on older adults. The numbers themselves are startling: Adults age 65 and older represent about 16.6 percent of the U.S. population, but accounted for 79.4 percent of COVID-19 fatalities. McCormack Graduate School Professor Edward Alan Miller, chair of the Gerontology Department, serves as the editor of JASP.



## IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATION AND IT SERVICES

### New Leadership Appointments in Academic Affairs



Lynnell Thomas

Provost Joseph Berger has announced two new appointments in Academic Affairs. Professor Lynnell Thomas will serve as the associate vice provost for inclusive excellence and Professor Denise Patmon is the new director of the Office for Faculty Development.

Thomas, a professor of American Studies, will serve as a member of the Student Support Services and Undergraduate Studies core leadership team, and she will oversee three departments: Undergraduate Studies, Academic Support Programs, and the Lillian Semper Ross Center for Disability Services. She will also play a critical role in enacting principles of racial, social, and restorative justice, and equity-minded practice in general education requirements, academic policies, and academic support services.



Denise Patmon

Patmon, since arriving at UMass Boston 1995 as a faculty member in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, has been immersed in activities and initiatives focused on the support and development of educators. She is highly regarded as an exemplary mentor, one who gives unstintingly to ensure that faculty are able to work productively toward fulfilling their aspirations.

Earlier this year, former Honors College Dean Rajini Srikanth was appointed as dean of faculty at UMass Boston. The dean of faculty works on all matters related to faculty recruitment, hiring, personnel actions, professional and career development, retention, and mentoring.



Rajini Srikanth

### University Launches Lean Library Browser Extension

Healey Library has launched a popular new research tool, "Lean Library," a browser extension that provides fast and straightforward access to the library's full-text subscriptions, which greatly improves the user experience of locating library resources for research, teaching, and learning.

The library subscribes to a wide range of online resources for the campus community, but if faculty and students don't go through the campus system, they are met with fees charged by the vendors on their websites. With Lean Library, when a UMass Boston user is on a website that contains library-subscribed content, the browser extension will pop up a notification that free access is available to them through their campus credentials, and then route them to UMB-authenticated access.

## INCREASE ENDOWMENT



### Alumni Engagement Hosts First In-Person 5K

After hosting three successful virtual 5Ks over the past 18 months, the Office of Alumni Engagement was able to hold its first in-person Beacon 5K on the Boston Harborwalk on October 3. More than 300 guests registered for the event, nearly one-third of whom opted to participate remotely from their own parts of the world. Beacons represented 16 states and five countries, including Canada, Colombia, India, and South Korea. Director of Alumni Engagement Steve Whitemore launched the first Beacon 5K in April 2020, shortly after UMass Boston mandated a university-wide lockdown for faculty, staff, and students.

### Run for Krystle Team Returns to the Boston Marathon

After training together for four months, a 10-member team represented UMass Boston in this year's Boston Marathon, rescheduled to October 2021 from April 2020. Every year, the Run for Krystle Team runs to honor the memory of UMass Boston alumna Krystle Campbell, who lost her life in the 2013 marathon bombing. Funds raised by the team support the Krystle Campbell Scholarship Fund, which was established by former UMass Trustee Richard Campbell '70. Since its inception in 2014, the Krystle Campbell Scholarship Fund has awarded 19 students with \$5,000 scholarships. To date, the fund has surpassed its \$1 million milestone, making it the second-largest endowment at UMass Boston.

## RENEW THE FACULTY



*The UMB Ride for Food Team before the event*

### UMass Boston Team Raises \$12,000 for U-ACCESS in Charity Ride

In October, a team of 10 faculty, staff, and friends of UMass Boston took to their bikes to support the campus's U-ACCESS food pantry in the 2021 Ride for Food, hosted by Three Squares New England. Members of the group, who each rode either 25 or 50 miles to support the cause, raised over \$12,000 that will be donated directly to U-ACCESS.

Rick Kesseli, a professor of biology and captain of the U-ACCESS team, said that after learning how many UMass Boston students were struggling to eat—several of whom were in his classes—he decided to start a team in support of the food pantry.

U-ACCESS serves as a support program for UMass Boston students by offering emergency grocery items, pantry items, fresh produce, toiletries, and some school supplies. A 2018 report found that 2 in 5 students who attended the university were food insecure.

### Director of the UCLA Pritzker Center Delivers Keynote at the 2021 Fall Convocation

Dr. Tyrone C. Howard, the Pritzker Family Endowed Chair in the School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA delivered the keynote address at the 2021 Fall Convocation, calling for concerted efforts to combat racial inequality and promote justice.

“UMass Boston, you are the most diverse public institution here in the New England area. You are the mirror into our future,” he said. “I am asking you in this moment to think big. To act big. To walk big. To dream big. And to hope big.”

Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco also shared his vision for the university in his first in-person convocation address. He explained why UMass Boston is more important today than ever before, emphasizing the university's mission to provide exemplary higher education to students who may not have access otherwise.

Provost Joseph Berger welcomed 20 new tenure-track faculty members recruited to campus this year through national searches. Another 47 faculty members were recognized for being promoted to the rank of associate professor, full professor, senior lecturer, and senior lecturer II.

## INCREASE ENDOWMENT, CONT.



*Beacon alumni came together in Los Angeles this fall.*

### Regional Alumni and Donor Engagement across the Country Resumes

The Office of Alumni Engagement hosted a variety of events with Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco this fall, bringing Beacons together in person for the first time since February 2020. Starting with a reception on Cape Cod in August, the university continued gathering alumni throughout the fall in New York City, Washington, D.C., San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. In Boston, the chancellor hosted a hybrid event at the UMass Club, focusing on the campus's work on climate adaptation, moderated by Steve Curwood, host of NPR's "Living on Earth," and featuring four expert faculty members. He was joined by Founder's Circle members Cathy Stone, president of the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Foundation, and James Canales, president of the Barr Foundation. These gatherings garnered a total of 579 registrants.