



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

## Community Relations

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AY 2018-2019

# Year End Report





Dear Friends and Neighbors,

A recently released report by the University of Massachusetts' Donahue Institute quantified the economic contributions of the university's campuses to their regions and the state. According to the report, the state's fiscal year 2018 investment of nearly \$136 million in UMass Boston helped leverage and support \$1.2 billion in economic activity in Massachusetts, an amount nine times greater than the state's investment.

Although those economic numbers are impressive, they don't capture the full extent of the university's impact in Greater Boston and beyond. At its founding, UMass Boston was charged to "stand with the city," and we have taken that directive to heart throughout our 55 years. One way in which we fulfill this charge is through our robust efforts around community relations.

Our Office of Community Relations, led by Director Philip Carver, serves as UMass Boston's primary liaison with neighborhood, community, business, and nonprofit organizations on matters pertaining to campus-community relationships. The office is an engaged civic, cultural, and business partner dedicated to preserving the university's long-term community relationships, advancing current priorities, and exploring new initiatives.

This annual report captures some of the highlights of our Office of Community Relations' engagement with our friends, neighbors, and other stakeholders across Greater Boston—from hosting an inaugural Small-Business Summit, to supporting the efforts of Work Inc., to standing with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, to name a few. As we note the significant work in the area over the past year, we continue to look for ways to continue and enhance our engagement with external partners; we welcome your feedback and suggestions on new ways we can strengthen our partnerships in the communities we serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine S. Newman".

Katherine Newman  
Interim Chancellor

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We continue to elicit feedback and appreciate suggestions or ideas from our external partners on ways we can continue to engage and strengthen our partnerships with the community.

**Community Relations is responsible for:**

- Building and maintaining the university's outreach to Neighborhood Groups, with the goal of communicating university news and strengthening relationships with local residents.
- Identifying local issues of interest to the university's administration.
- Coordinate community/university projects
- Make the university resources available to the community
- Promote the university as a key resource to community leaders
- Match UMass Boston's programs to specific community needs
- Coordinating the Chancellor and Quinn Community Service Awards Breakfast– a celebration of our partnerships with the greater Boston community.

This past year, the Office of Community Relations focused specifically on local small-business development, assisting elected officials in achieving their public policy goals and rebuilding connections with local community groups now that much of the campus construction is completed.

# Government (City/State)

## Ireland Delegation Visit

The UMass Boston Community Relations Office was proud to host a high-level trade and investment delegation from Northwest Ireland. The delegation was led by John Boyle, the mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, and Seamus O'Domhnaill, Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council, as well as representatives from Ireland's North West Regional College. The visit, part of ongoing work being done by the two councils to establish strong economic development links and initiatives in the United States, will build on the work done in previous years in promoting the North West region as an attractive investment proposition and on developing new market and network opportunities for businesses from Donegal, Derry, and Strabane areas.

The five-day trade and investment mission built on the strong political, economic, and cultural linkages already established between Boston and the North West City region of Ireland, also allowing the delegation to



reach out to the Irish diaspora. We arranged for the dignitaries to have a VIP tour of the John F. Kennedy Library, the Edward M. Kennedy Institute, a welcome luncheon hosted by UMass Boston chancellor Katherine Newman, and presentations from UMass Boston's Edward J. Collins, Jr., Center for Public Management and UMass Boston's Venture Development Center (VDC).



## Appeals Court

Community Relations, in partnership with UMass Boston Alumni Affairs and the Massachusetts Appeals Court, hosted a three-member judicial panel to hear two criminal cases and three civil cases, ranging from a stop-and-frisk case to a dispute over the presence of affordable housing to a failed children's book series. This is the third time in four years the court has visited the campus.

UMass Boston criminal justice, sociology, and political science students had the opportunity to not only experience the

judicial process without leaving campus, but to network with members of the court, their staff, and alumni, some of whom work for the court system. Community Relations also arranged for the Constitutional Law class from the Jeremiah Burke High School in Dorchester to attend.

After all of the cases had been heard, the justices talked about their own backgrounds and answered questions about their preparation process and how it differs from case to case. Associate Justice Mary Sullivan, a UMass Amherst alumna, announced that "This is my favorite sitting, the students, the alumni—it's the best."

## US Congressional Visit

US Representative Joe Kennedy and three of his fellow members of Congress visited UMass Boston recently to discuss the current state and future of bipartisan cooperation on Capitol Hill with our students, faculty, and staff. Kennedy (D, MA), Congressman Rodney Davis (R, IL), Congressman Markwayne Mullin (R, OK), and Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester (D, DE) fielded questions on everything from their proudest moments passing bipartisan legislation to the challenges of working across the aisle and what young people should know before running for office.

Chancellor Katherine Newman welcomed the two Democrat and two Republican Representatives to campus, calling it a very special occasion. Additionally, the Representatives, along with Chancellor Newman, visited Dorchester's Jeremiah Burke High School earlier in the day to host a civics discussion with students, an event made possible by UMass Boston's partnership with Boston Public Schools.



## Basketball for Peace tournament

Annually, UMass Boston hosts the Suffolk County District Attorney's Basketball for Peace tournament.



The day-long tournament is made up of local teens from area youth centers throughout Suffolk County. In addition to the games, the District Attorney recognizes local leaders who serve as "true role models" for city youth.

# Small-Business Development

## Small-Business Summit

UMass Boston hosted more than 100 small-business owners, local and state officials, business executives, and community members for its inaugural Small-Business Summit, providing a venue to discuss important issues facing small businesses across the city and commonwealth. Attendees heard updates from leaders in the public and private sectors, participated in a Q-and-A with a panel of business and agency executives, and visited information tables on how to access services. The Office of Community Relations recruited the City of Boston's Chief of Economic Development, **John Barros**, and **Jay Ash**, CEO of the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership and the former Secretary of Housing and Economic Affairs, to serve as keynote speakers.



Additionally, we recruited a diverse panel of experts in their respective fields to talk about accessing capital, new programs for minority- and women-owned businesses, advice on navigating the myriad of small-business development agencies, what's being done to create jobs and small businesses in this area, the state bidding process, and the city's economic development center.

The panel featured Barros; **Nhat Le**, chief operating officer of the Massachusetts Office of Business Development; **Glynn Loyd**, executive director of Eastern Bank's Business Equity Initiative; **Joyce Stanley**, executive director of Dudley Square Main Streets; and **Roxann Cooke**, regional director of consumer banking and wealth management at JPMorgan Chase Bank. Also in attendance were Boston City Councilor **Frank Baker**, State Representative **Tommy Vitolo**, and **Natalia Urtubey**, director of small business in the Mayor's Office of Economic Development.

## Metro South Chamber of Commerce Partnership

UMass Boston Community Relations is a proud sponsor of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs Committee. The Metro South Chamber of Commerce works on behalf of members to advance responsible public policy that ensures that the business community has the resources, infrastructure, and opportunities to keep our region's economy strong and growing.

The mission of the Government Affairs Committee of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce is to review pending legislation and regulations for their impact on business and develop positions that will enhance economic growth. The committee also develops programs that inform and encourage members to participate in the Chamber's government affairs initiatives. Meetings take place monthly, with thoughtful dialogue on contemporary issues. Committee members receive regular legislative updates.



## New Market Square Business Association

Community Relations has served on the board of directors for the last ten years. The Newmarket Business Association, a chartered, nonprofit organization founded in 1977, is committed to: the continued growth of business in the Newmarket area. Promoting business to business interaction. Communicating the interests of our members to city and state officials and working with those officials to create a better business climate. Working as the primary advocate and voice of its membership for the betterment of the Newmarket District.

## Chambers of Commerce

UMass Boston Community Relations is a proud member of the following Chambers of Commerce in the Greater Boston Region: Boston Chamber, Quincy Chamber, South Shore Chamber, Metro South Chamber, Newmarket Business Association, Neponset Valley Chamber, Stoughton Chamber, Everett Chamber, Revere Chamber, East Boston Chamber, Malden Chamber, and Braintree Chamber.

## OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD AFFILIATIONS

### Columbia Point Associates

UMass Boston Community Relations is proud to represent the university in this association of organizations on the Columbia Point peninsula. The goal of CPA is: (1) to exchange information and discuss relevant issues on Columbia Point; (2) to seek joint principles for future development on the peninsula; (3) to develop positions on areas of common interest and civic concern and take action when needed; (4) to share resources and serve the community.

CPA membership is open to any institution with a major physical presence on the peninsula. Key partners include Boston College High School, the Boston Teachers Union Health and Welfare Fund Club, Doubletree Hotel at Bayside, Corcoran Jennison Companies, the Walter Denney Youth Center, UMass Boston, JFK Library, EMKI and Mass Archives, etc.



### Work Inc.

Community Relations has served on the Work Inc. board of directors for the last six years. Work Inc. is nationally recognized as an innovator in developing community-based programs for individuals with disabilities; they are New England's leading agency providing the skills and supportive services needed to help people with disabilities achieve their career goals. They are the largest employer of people with disabilities in the region. The agency has a myriad of programs—Commercial Services, Day-Habilitation, Deaf Services, Family Support, Employment, and Residential Services—which all converge toward one goal: "To make the lives of individuals with disabilities better."

### Dorchester Board of Trade

Community Relations has served on the Board of Directors for almost two decades. The Dorchester Board of Trade has been uniting and strengthening the community's businesses, as well as giving them a voice in the community, since 1911. The board is committed to the belief that strength among businesses, along with civic attentiveness, benefits the entire community. The benefits and services of the Board of Trade are always expanding and today are greater than ever.



## **Dorchester Neighborhood Service Center (ABCD)**

Community Relations has served on the Board of Directors for the last 10 years. The Dorchester neighborhood service center provides: fuel assistance for low-income families, free tax preparation, an after-school program from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., help with food-stamp and Mass Health applications. ABCD also has a job development program that helps individuals with resumes and job searches, and has a summer works program for youth ages 14 to 21. Most of the services and programs are free, but some adhere to a sliding scale and/or vouchers. The ultimate goal is to expand resource access for family members and individuals in Dorchester.

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## **Boston Collegiate Charter School**

Community Relations has joined the Board of Directors within the last two years. The Boston Collegiate Charter School (BCCS) is a highly rated, public, charter school located in Dorchester, MA. The mission of BCCSs is simple yet ambitious: to prepare each student for college. It has 680 students in grades 5–12, with a student-teacher ratio of 10 to 1. All of their graduates have been accepted to college; the majority of them will be the first in their families to complete a college degree.



## **Dorchester YMCA**

Community Relations has served on the Board of Advisors for the last ten years. The YMCA of Greater Boston is dedicated to improving the health of mind, body, and spirit of individuals and families in our communities. We welcome men and women, boys and girls of all incomes, faiths, and cultures. The Y is the largest provider of after-school programs and child care in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, offers the state's largest summer youth employment program, involves more than 10,000 children in summer camps, and leverages resources to provide over \$10.3 million in critical services at no cost to low-income participants.

## UMASS BOSTON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The following examples highlight some of the many ways in which UMass Boston's Office of Community Relations contributes to the Greater Boston community through volunteerism, partnerships, and civic engagement initiatives. UMass Boston will continue these efforts and initiate new ones in the months and years ahead.

## Community



### Quinn Community Service Award Breakfast

UMass Boston established the Robert H. Quinn Award for Outstanding Community Leadership in 1987. The award is presented annually by UMass Boston to honor individuals whose contributions have significantly improved the quality of life in the Boston area. It is named after the former Massachusetts attorney general who pushed legislation that helped with the founding of UMass Boston, and who died in 2014. Recipients of this award are nominated by members of the community, and the awardees are chosen by a special committee. The winners are recognized during the university's annual breakfast.

This year Chancellor Katherine Newman presented longtime Dorchester resident Thelma Burns with the Robert H. Quinn Award for Outstanding Community Leadership. A fixture in Boston's civic life, Burns has committed her life to serving others. Drawn to the issue of educational inequality, she helped found one of Boston's first after-school programs, and

later served as director of the Belmont METCO program for 28 years. Burns has also devoted more than 35 years to the Board of Directors of Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD).

Advocating for Boston's senior community, she served on the Central Boston Elder Services Advisory Committee and volunteers for the mayor's Senior Advisory Council.



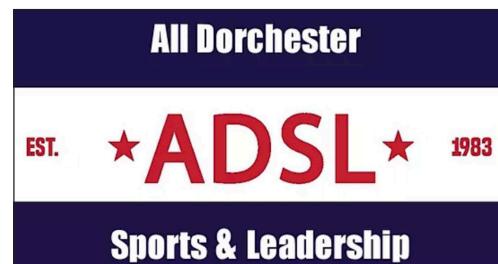
Veteran Boston police officer Cynthia Beckford-Brewington was also recognized at the event for her involvement in the community for the past three decades. She received the Chancellor's Award for Longstanding Community Commitment and Service. Brewington

has served as a Boston police officer in District B3 in Mattapan since 1989, working for the past ten years as a community service officer. Brewington runs a Teen Police Academy every summer, leads the Youth & Police Dialogues program, organizes the annual B-3 Holiday Party for Children, which draws hundreds of families in need, organizes Meet Our Captain meetings for residents, and leads workshops for women on topics like domestic violence and dating.



## All-Dorchester Sports League

The ADSL is committed to providing the youth of Dorchester with resources to be healthy, active members of the community. They strive to provide the support that will allow children to grow into happy, successful adults. UMass Boston is a frequent collaborator with ADSL and sponsors a Little League team each season.



## Dorchester Chili Cook-off

UMass Boston Community Relations takes part in this annual competition. The university's student-athletes and Campus Services join forces for the Dorchester Chili Cook-off. The competition comprises more than 20 local civic groups, associations, and businesses in pursuit of the official title of Best Chili in Dorchester. All proceeds from the event go toward funding the Dorchester Day Parade.



## Greater Ashmont Farmers' Market

UMass Boston is proud to be an annual sponsor of the hugely popular Ashmont Farmers' Market in Dorchester, located just outside the Ashmont MBTA Plaza at 1900 Dorchester Ave. The market, which last year served up to 600 people a week, provides healthy options for an at-risk community.



## Harbor Point Partnership Mural Background

Spearheaded the Harbor Point Partnership, made up of representatives from UMass Boston College of Public and Community Service and the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester Walter Denney Youth Center, and submitted an application for a Love Your Block Mini-grant. The group was awarded a grant in the sum of \$2,500 to support the completion of a mural at the McCormack Middle School. A September unveiling with Mayor Walsh is being planned.



## Neponset RiverFest

UMass Boston's Office of Community Relations and the School for the Environment collaborate with the Neponset River Watershed Association at their annual RiverFest. The festival is a local event aimed at celebrating and bringing attention to the "hidden river" of Boston—the Neponset River. The Neponset flows 29 miles from Foxborough, near Gillette Stadium, to Dorchester Bay, and is home to more than 200 species of birds, fish, and other wildlife.



## Roxbury YMCA

UMass Boston is proud to be a sponsor and participant at the Roxbury YMCA's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Breakfast. The breakfast is an opportunity to celebrate Dr. King's legacy of service and begin the year inspired to live out his dream in our homes and throughout the community, moving us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "beloved community" with this year's theme, "Remember His Words." The event attracts an audience of about 500, including leaders in business, civic projects, the local community, religious leaders, as well as education and community organizations from across Boston.

## Nonprofit



### Taste of Dorchester Network

Served on the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance's Community Board for the Taste of Dorchester Event. MAHA's 10th annual Taste of Dorchester was a fantastic evening, with 25 restaurants, live jazz, raffles and a silent auction, a photo booth, and a roving magician. The Taste of Dorchester helps MAHA raise more than \$100,000 to support affordable and sustainable homeownership in Dorchester and throughout Massachusetts.

### Youth Engaged in Action (YEA!)

UMass Boston's Office of Community Relations joins YEA! annually to talk with neighborhood teens about community advocacy at the Dorchester Neighborhood Service Center's YEA! program. Yea! is an ABCD Summer Program for Boston-area 13-year-olds. In this program the kids learn about personal finance, explore careers and civic engagement, gain leadership skills, and subsequently have priority admission status to ABCD's Summer Works Program.

# University Related

## Community Meet and Greet

In collaboration with State Senator Nick Collins and State Representative Dan Hunt, the Office of Community Relations hosted a Community Meet and Greet with UMass Boston's Interim Chancellor, Katherine Newman. The casual and extremely well-attended event, held at the Dorchester Brewing Company, served as an unofficial introduction between the immediate external community and Chancellor Newman.



## ISC Lighting Project

UMass Boston Community Relations, in partnership with University Facilities, created the ISC lighting initiative. UMass Boston is proud to show our support for various City of Boston and community-awareness campaigns. Our Integrated Sciences Complex is quickly becoming an iconic landmark on Boston's cityscape. Its beautiful glass façade provides the perfect venue to coordinate our lighting to show support and bring awareness to various initiatives and causes.



Over the past year we have celebrated causes such as One Boston Day, Massachusetts Fallen Heroes, and Boston Children's Hospital, and have joined iconic Boston landmarks such as Government Center MBTA Station, South Station, TD Garden, Zakim Bridge, Hancock Tower, Prudential Center, University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Fenway Park, Liberty Mutual, National Grid Gas Tank, and Rowes Wharf.



## Vietnam Veterans Memorial

In 2019 UMass Boston led efforts to aid in the restoration of the Dorchester Vietnam Veterans Memorial since a vandal targeted the site in October, destroying 50 memorial shrubs and damaging the central granite monument, which includes an engraved list of men from Dorchester killed in Vietnam. UMass Boston workers cleaned up the debris from more than 20 shrubs cut up by a saw, and helped replant severely damaged shrubs and other landscaping. Additionally, UMass Boston contributed \$15,000 toward the full restoration of the memorial.

## PARTIAL LIST OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- A.D.S.L. All-Dorchester Sports League
- Ashmont-Adams Neighborhood Association
- Boston Collegiate Charter School Board
- Boston Police Department B-2, C-6, C-11
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, Dorchester, South Boston
- Brockton Public Schools
- Cedar Grove Civic Association
- Clam Point Civic Association
- Columbia–Savin Hill Civic Association
- Dorchester Board of Trade
- Dorchester Career Access Point Advisory Board
- Dorchester Park Association
- Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative
- Everett Chamber of Commerce
- Fields Corner Civic Association
- Fields Corner Main Street
- Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Bowdoin Geneva Neighborhood Association
- Hancock Street Civic Association
- Harbor Point Community Task Force
- John W. McCormack Civic Association
- Louis D. Brown Peace Institute
- Lower Mills Civic Association
- Mattapan Square Main Streets
- Meetinghouse Hill
- Melville Park Association
- Metro South Chamber of Commerce
- Pope's Hill Neighborhood Association
- Quincy Chamber of Commerce
- Saint Mark's Area Main Streets
- South Boston Chamber of Commerce
- South Shore Chamber of Commerce
- Uphams Corner Main Street
- Vietnamese-American Civic Association
- Work Inc.



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