

December 6, 2007

Boston State College Room Dedication
“Celebrating the Boston State College Legacy”
Speaker: Chancellor J. Keith Motley, PhD

Good evening everyone. It is my pleasure to co-host this event with the Boston State College Steering Committee and to welcome all of you to UMass Boston for this historic occasion.

I would also like to acknowledge UMass Boston Alumni Association President Jim Smith, who'll be speaking later, and my colleagues from the UMass Boston executive staff and Academic Council who are in the room. The presence of all these here this evening gives testimony to the importance of this event.

It also my great pleasure to recognize a very special guest with us: Dr. Richard Newman. At age 94, Dr. Newman is a true elder statesmen of the Boston State College family. His academic and professional career spans three strands of UMass Boston's collective institutional history. Dr. Newman is a 1936 graduate of the Teachers College of the City of Boston, a former member of the faculty at Boston State College, and a retired UMass Boston professor. Please join me in giving a round of applause to welcome Dr. Newman. What an honor it is to have you with us this evening.

The Boston State College Room is the *first space – that's right, the very first space* - in the Campus Center to showcase the university's history. I am proud that this significant chapter in that story is featured in our newest building. I want to congratulate the Boston State College Steering Committee for your leadership and efforts in making this happen.

What brought each of you here this evening is rooted in the lasting relationships that you formed at 625 Huntington Avenue. These were the close ties between faculty and the aspiring young professionals they taught – many of whom were first generation college students who came to Boston State because of its excellent, affordable education. These are the bonds between the staff, faculty, and students who came together in often

cramped classrooms and office spaces and formed a tight knit community. This was the place where so many of you spent your formative years, forged lifelong friendships, and found your voice in expressing your opinions on the social and political issues of the 1960's and '70's. That's why there's such a tremendous feeling of warmth and pride in this room. As we'll see shortly, these special remembrances will truly come alive again for you in the Boston State College Room.

As the new chancellor of UMass Boston, I feel it is important to acknowledge the challenging experience it was for you – our Boston State College alumni, faculty, and staff – to witness the closing of your college in 1982. This 25th anniversary year of that event provided an important opportunity for Boston State College family to come together again in a meaningful way to celebrate the college and its many countless contributions to public higher education.

In my recent inaugural address, I discussed the theme of “return and renewal,” and noted that “institutions (like great universities) return to their founder’s visions, to their core values, and to their fundamental selves.” Tonight, December 6, 2007, the University of Massachusetts Boston turns to its collective history with Boston State College to honor its living continuation at 100 Morrissey Boulevard. To what do we owe Boston State?

- For our College of Nursing and Health Sciences, which *U.S. News & World Report* ranked in the top 9% of the 682 nursing colleges and universities in 2005, we say: **we're so proud of Boston State.**
- For the many publicly funded grant programs which have enriched our university's academic programs and strengthened our student support services, we say: **we're so proud of Boston State.**
- For our Graduate College of Education, which educates future teachers and education administrators and continues the legacy of the Boston Normal School begun in 1852, we say -- *and you can join with me now* - **we're so proud of Boston State.**

- For our UMass Boston faculty and staff who came from Boston State - and whose commitment to public higher education and dedication to students have helped make this Boston's great public university - we say – *let's hear it -- we're so proud of Boston State.*
- For its graduates who embraced the college motto of “Education for Service” and served the Commonwealth and the nation as public servants in the fields of education, health care, law enforcement, just to name a few – we say – *your turn now -- we're so proud of Boston State.*

For these reasons – and so many more countless contributions – it will always be important for the University of Massachusetts to remember, value, and build on the traditions and legacy of Boston State College.

As we look back on all that Boston State College brought to the mission of the University of Massachusetts Boston, we also look ahead to what this means to current and future generations of UMass Boston students. Let me give you a sneak preview about the Boston State College Room just down the hall. This is a multi-purpose room that is used for meetings, seminars, trainings, conferences, and study sessions, and kept locked when not in use. Most often, it is our students who gather there.

As chancellor of this great student-centered university, I am especially proud to know that they will be the ones who will have the most ample opportunities to learn about the great history of the institution they attend. I am grateful to the Boston State College Steering Committee, Joe DeMedeiros and Lynn Locklear from our Alumni Relations Office, and Ellen Fleming from University Advancement staff who have worked together to compile and imaginatively organize this tribute to the “Green and Gold.”

What you'll view are an assortment of more than 80 photos and items of memorabilia that bring to life the spirit of Boston State College. The largest item is displayed prominently in the back of the room. It is a piece of Boston State College property that I'm told has been missing since after a college concert in the late 1960's. Magically,

nearly four decades later, it has resurfaced in tact – and none too worse for wear!
Honestly, I don't know the name of the donor. As a state official, I'm going to take the
“don't ask, don't tell” policy on this one.

Each montage includes a quotation from either a Boston State alumnus, faculty or staff
member that speaks to his/her experiences at the college. One that I've found quite
powerful addresses that bond between Boston State and UMass Boston, and literally
speaks to more than half of our current student population. It is my hope that they will
find inspiration in the professional success story of our distinguished alumnus and WBZ
Radio host Dan Rea. Dan says,

*“Having gone to Boston State as a first generation college student, I feel a sense
of connection with students like those at UMass Boston who are also the first in
their families to attend college.”*

May you all enjoy your trip down memory lane.

Thanks to all of you for being here tonight. I encourage you to continue your involvement
with the University of Massachusetts Boston. And I invite you to help us to continue the
living legacy of Boston State College.

