

To the Board:

One year into our strategic plan, For the Times, new academic initiatives and programs are underway, and we continue to affirm our commitment to impactful teaching and research that serves the greater good. Several new initiatives featured in this report detail the efforts of faculty, students, and administrators to further our efforts to be a university For the Times.

- Our cover story highlights the opening event in UMass Boston’s inaugural Chancellor’s Lecture Series, established this year to engage distinguished thought leaders and scholars in conversation on the issues and challenges of climate change. The first of three lectures in the 2023-24 Lecture Series – given by renowned climate change scholar Dr. Ram Ramanathan, Professor Emeritus of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography – outlined a mitigation, adaptation, and societal transformation approach to bending the climate change curve and making communities more resilient.
- In our ongoing work on Bridging Divides in Health Equity, UMass Boston – together with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and several tribal/indigenous leaders from across New England – hosted the inaugural Massachusetts Tribal and Indigenous Health Summit in October. The summit offered an important opportunity to build partnerships that engage the university’s teaching, research, and service in addressing Native American health concerns and examining why health disparities persist in Native American communities.
- Reflecting our interest in advancing an Education for the Future paradigm that models educational inclusivity and equality, UMass Boston formalized a new partnership with TheDream.US, with a view to providing scholarship assistance to our undocumented students. The new partnership reflects our admiration and appreciation for, and steadfast commitment to, undocumented and immigrant-origin students at UMass Boston – for who they are, and for the many contributions they make to our university community and to society.

I trust you will appreciate this report on our progress.

—Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco



Dr. Ram Ramanathan was the inaugural speaker in the Chancellor’s Lecture Series: “From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience.”

Dr. Ramanathan Headlines Chancellor’s Lecture Series, Offers Path to Climate Resiliency

Climate change has morphed into climate crisis, with just this last year giving us a peek into a world that is warmer by 1.5°C— heat waves, forest fires, droughts, floods, hurricanes, and an increase in the risks of food, water, and vector-borne diseases.

World-renowned scholar Dr. Ram Ramanathan joined Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco in November for the kick-off of the Chancellor’s Lecture Series: “From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience.” Ramanathan, a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Climate Sustainability at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, offered a groundbreaking strategy not only to bend the emissions curve but also to make communities and ecosystems resilient to climate stress.

Ramanathan’s approach, developed in partnership with Pontifical Academies, is built on three pillars: mitigation, adaptation, and societal transformation. The approach will be shared with mayors and governors from around the world, who will be convened at the Vatican in a summit next year. Chancellor Suárez-Orozco and Dr. Ramanathan are co-leading this effort on behalf of the Pontifical Academies.

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Enhance the Learning Experience



Beacon is UMass Boston's new comfort dog, devoted to supporting students' wellness.

UMass Boston Police Department Welcomes Comfort K-9 Beacon

UMass Boston has welcomed an adorable addition to the campus – Beacon, a comfort dog devoted to supporting students' wellness. Thanks to the generosity of Pacheco Kennel and annual fund donors, Beacon joined the campus for his first duty shift in July.

In his brief time here, Beacon has already made a significant impact. From bringing smiles to students' faces at orientation to learning about his community and the best places to ask for belly rubs, his presence will help students, faculty, and staff de-stress and the police de-escalate situations as needed. Interim Chief of Police Ken Sprague said: "Beacon's tail-wagging presence embodies our commitment to a well campus."



Rhinoceros Moves Beyond University Hall Theatre

Theatre Arts students walked an eight-foot-long rhinoceros puppet through University Hall and the Campus Center to promote their latest production, *Rhinoceros*, which had a successful run in November, selling out several performances. Director Robert Lublin says he's loved this play for a long time.

"On the surface, it's a bizarre story of a small town where people – for no discernible reason – start turning into rhinoceroses. Trampling, rampaging, destructive rhinos," he said. "One character, against fantastic odds, stays sane through that bizarre mayhem. ... But deeper than that, this is about people's tendency to ignore the truth, even when it's about to run them over."

Cover Story (cont.)

"The biggest challenge we face—Why are we not solving this problem? Why are we not bending the curve? It's not because we don't have technology; it's not because we don't have the governance system; and it's not because we lack solutions," Ramanathan said. "There are hundreds of solutions to solve the problem. We just don't have the support.

"We need to change the narrative on our climate problem," he said.

The event also featured a panel with Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space for the City of Boston; Melissa Hoffer, Massachusetts Climate Chief; Kannan Thiruvengadam, director of Eastie Farm; and Sommer Heyman, a UMass Boston undergraduate student. Former White House Climate Advisor and UMass Boston alumna Gina McCarthy offered closing remarks.

Enhance the Learning Experience (cont.)



Students gather at the new Native and Indigenous Student Resource Hub.

Campus Celebrates Native & Indigenous Student Resource Hub Grand Opening

In October, the campus community celebrated the grand opening of the Native and Indigenous Student Resource Hub, a space that Assistant Professor of Native American History Maria John hopes will provide a natural home, meeting place, and dedicated space for students to socialize, collaborate, and access resources through community events, staffing support, and more.

“I don’t think we can underestimate the power of having a place that is just for the students,” John said. “This brings visibility, community, the opportunity to build, a sense of belonging, and so much more.”

At the grand opening, students gathered in the hub to make art, enjoy snacks, and learn more about opportunities to get involved with the Native and Indigenous student community on campus. John said it’s been challenging for Native and Indigenous students to find one another on campus without a dedicated space to do the work of community building. The hub, sponsored by INENAS and the Native American & Indigenous Studies minor, is located on the third floor of the Campus Center.

New UMass Boston Program Brings Real Economic Impact

UMass Boston’s College of Management has officially completed its pilot for a new program named BEST (Business Engagement for Students) Boston. It gives students the ability to apply for 10-week paid consulting engagements to solve real-world problems with local small businesses. This impactful program is developing a pipeline of talented and diverse business professionals.

The pilot wrapped up at the UMass Club where each team of business students presented their results. In attendance were their faculty mentors, Dean Venky Venkatachalam, Provost Joseph Berger, the participating small businesses, and representatives from the governor’s office.

“The presentations were inspirational as we watched how each student creatively developed real solutions,” said Dean Venkatachalam. “BEST Boston is a strategic priority for the College of Management, and we will continue to be committed to the economic development of the Boston region. With the goal of expanding to as many as 120 student participants and 80 businesses per academic year, BEST Boston aims to be a highly sought out and mutually beneficial venture for both the public and private sector.”

The participating small businesses in the pilot included the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, QUBIC Labs, The Castle Group, and Westnet. UMass Boston values perspectives from individuals of various backgrounds, cultures, and experiences preparing students to effectively navigate a global business world. Because of this, the college is dedicated to partnering with businesses and organizations who emulate these same values, the majority of which are minority- and women-owned.

Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise

Seaweed Research Provides New Look at Coastal Pollution and Impacts

Commercial seaweed farming is an emerging industry in the Northeast United States and elsewhere, garnering interest for its potential to bring a new domestic market to coastal communities by providing a healthy and sustainable food source. U.S. seaweed farmers and regulators are working together to identify areas to grow crops like sugar kelp, but are challenged by a lack of seaweed-specific standards in the U.S. A new paper by researchers from UMass Boston and Dartmouth College explores how water pollution might impact the health and safety of sugar kelp and brings some much-needed data to the table.

The team, led by Brianna Shaughnessy, PhD, as part of her doctoral dissertation at UMass Boston's School for the Environment, found that some wild and farmed sugar kelps contain notably high levels of certain heavy metals, but emphasized that the levels do not pose any immediate threat to consumers who enjoy U.S.-produced seaweed products. In fact, they say that the data points to a need for the U.S. to develop consistent, evidence-based standards around seaweed safety, one that considers the way sugar kelp is typically processed for consumption (i.e., blanching). The research also sheds light on the ecology of sugar kelp, and will help scientists continue to explore the marine environment in which sugar kelp grows.

Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service



The Massachusetts Tribal and Indigenous Health Summit began with a Tribal land acknowledgement, prayer, song and dance.

Chancellor, State Health Officials, Tribal Leaders Gather for Tribal and Indigenous Health Summit

Dozens of Tribal and Indigenous leaders, health advocates, and regional, state, and local representatives from across New England came together in October at UMass Boston for the inaugural Massachusetts Tribal and Indigenous Health Summit.

Led by the Department of Public Health, the summit offered a critical opportunity to build stronger partnerships among the state and Tribal and Indigenous communities so they can work collaboratively to come up with real, innovative solutions to Native health issues.

Speakers covered many facets of health in Tribal and Indigenous communities—mental health, the COVID-19 response, public health data, substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery and harm reduction. Attendees also learned about colonialism's devastating impact on Native health.

Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco said he believes that the university and INENAS's partnerships with the tribes, state government, and community organizations, together with our endeavors as an anti-racist, health promoting university, offers a promising pathway to move forward.

"I can't tell you how important it is for us to be together, all together in one room to be able to understand and share the wisdom that we all have and we all should be sharing in order to provide better health care options for all of us," said Chairwoman Cheryl Andrew-Maltais of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head.

Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise



Abbey Eisenhower

Psychology Professor Awarded \$3.6 Million Grant to Evaluate Autism-focused Professional Development Program for Educators

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education, has awarded a five-year \$3.6 million grant to Abbey Eisenhower, professor of psychology at UMass Boston. The award is for her work evaluating Smooth Sailing, a professional development program preparing elementary school educators to form positive, strong relationships with their autistic students.

Eisenhower's project, *Intervention to Enhance Student-Teacher Relationships and School Outcomes for Autistic Children: A Randomized Controlled Trial*, will use the IES funding to evaluate Smooth Sailing's effectiveness.

The research team will conduct a randomized, controlled trial of the program with 150 teachers, their students on the autism spectrum, and the students' caregivers. The participating kindergarten through 2nd grade teachers will come from a range of urban, suburban, and rural school districts across the Greater Boston and Worcester metropolitan areas in Massachusetts and the Southern California / Inland Empire areas of California.

University Research Awards for the Last Quarter

- PI Kelly Ann Haines/Education & Human Development received \$4,499,998 from Administration For Community Living Award for Center on Scaling Up Progressive Employment (PE): Promoting Competitive Integrated Employment for Jobseekers with Disabilities and Meeting Needs of Businesses in the Community.
- PI Serra Acar/Curriculum & Instruction received \$3,523,849 from the U.S. Department of Education for Project CIRCLE: Cultivating Interdisciplinary and Responsive Cultural research, practice, and policy Leaders in Early Childhood Profession.
- PI Joseph Berger/Sciences & Mathematics received \$3,000,000 from the National Science Foundation for Louis Stokes New STEM Pathways and Research Alliance: Urban Massachusetts LSAMP.
- PI Jean Winsor/Education & Human Development received \$2,250,000 from Administration for Community Living for Y1: Access to Integrated Employment: National Data Collection on Day and Employment Services for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities.
- PI Lindsay Fallon/Education & Human Development received \$1,999,991 from the U.S. Department of Education for Advancing Equity in the Implementation of Comprehensive Behavioral Health Supports for Youth with or at Risk for Disabilities.
- PI Katalin Szelenyi/Education & Human Development received \$1,000,000 from the National Science Foundation for ADVANCE Adaptation: UMass Boston CARES: Communities, Acknowledgment, Recognition and Equity through a Culture of Sponsorship.
- PI David Hoff/Education & Human Development received \$923,646 from the Missouri Department of Elementary Secondary Education for Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation Customized Employment.
- PI Marianna Torok/Sciences & Mathematics received \$485,925 from the National Institutes of Health for Mitochondria-targeting Novel Cationic Hydrazone Antioxidants for the Treatment of Preeclampsia.
- PI Ellen Birchander/Gerontology Institute received \$410,415 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health & Human Services for Pathways to Building an Aging Services Workforce.
- PI Jesse Farmer/School for the Environment received \$342,538 from the National Science Foundation for COLLAB: Deciphering the Subantarctic South Pacific Ocean's Role in Pleistocene Climate Evolution with IODP Expedition 383 Sediments.
- PI Carol Cohn/Liberal Arts received \$210,000 from the University of Massachusetts Foundation (Sub From Rockefeller Brothers Fund) for Feminist Roadmap for Sustainable Peace.

Continue a Positive Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate



Renee Gosline explains human-first AI as the Black Lives Matter Day keynote speaker.

University Hosts Fourth Annual Black Lives Matter Day

This year's fourth annual Black Lives Matter Day celebrated Black excellence in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) with a variety of panels, a keynote address, screening of the documentary *Coded Bias*, and a special lunch provided by UMass Boston catering that featured foods from the African Diaspora. The event, entitled "Black to the Future," featured speakers from the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), UMass Boston faculty, and keynote speaker Dr. Renée Gosline, head of the Human-First AI Group at MIT's Initiative on The Digital Economy

Students, faculty, and staff engaged in discussions on promoting tech equity, employment in the STEM fields, and elevating Black women's voices. Throughout the day, panelists and presenters shared words of encouragement for students who may feel discouraged or ill-equipped to pursue education and a career in STEM. Panelists also shared personal stories of how they entered STEM fields, what fueled their passion for learning, and how educators can support their students through their academic journey.

Gosline spoke to a standing-room only audience about creating trustworthy AI systems by consciously using friction to enable better choices, and shared other research based on her upcoming book on AI-mediated systems. "AI is a lot of like stochastic parrots, which is that they watch what you say and do, and they parrot it back. But they are not sentient, they are not conscious, they are not thinking. Only you can do that," Gosline said. "Embrace that thinking that you have to interrupt bias and to use AI in the way that's human first."

University Rolls Out Campus Climate Survey

In fall 2022, UMass Boston participated in the National Assessment of Collegiate Campus Climates (NACCC) by the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center. This 15-minute web-based survey that included six content areas aims to help communities understand the student racial climate on campus and collects participants' demographic information to conduct meaningful data disaggregation.

Recently, the university received the results of the assessment. The diversity of our campus was well represented in the overall student response rate of 21.6 percent. In October, the Chancellor's Office, the Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Black Life, and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs began rolling out the results. This rollout will feature six content-based community dialogue sessions in the coming months, covering topics such as mattering and affirmation, cross-racial engagement, racial learning, and literacy, encounters with racial stress, appraisals of institutional commitment, and impact of external environments.

Athletics Appoints Director of Community Engagement and Inclusive Excellence



Tiffany Alford

Tiffany Alford has been named the first director of community engagement and inclusive excellence at UMass Boston, as the Division of Athletics and Recreation continues to deliver on its mission of engaging students and the community in a transformative experience and developing individuals of character prepared to champion change in the world.

In her role, Alford will be responsible for the development and execution of the UMass Boston Athletics and Recreation community engagement program. This program will focus on planned engagement opportunities for UMass Boston athletic teams in the surrounding community and the intentional engagement of external community partners for student-athletes to regularly engage with and give back to area schools, nonprofit organizations, and programs.

Alford will also support the vision, management, planning, and execution of all Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives for Athletics and Recreation, where she will take a systems approach to the promotion and practice of these efforts for the department's student-athletes, coaches, staff, and administrators.

Maintain and Improve Affordability and Access

University Partners with TheDream.US to Provide Scholarships, Tuition Equity

Last month, UMass Boston signed an agreement to partner with TheDream.US, the largest college access and success program in the nation for undocumented immigrant students. The partnership will provide scholarship assistance, supporting undocumented students in their quest to graduate from college with the skills necessary to succeed in the U.S. workforce, and increasing enrollment, retention, and degree completion among eligible students.

The scholarship program helps to address barriers and challenges undocumented students face by providing them with funding to cover monetary gaps resulting from a lack of federal financial aid resources. Scholarship funds may total up to \$8,250 per academic year for each student.

“We’re thrilled to be able to partner with TheDream.US to offer these scholarships to our hard-working students,” said Daniel MacLeod, director of merit scholarships. “Providing these resources to an underserved population is what UMass Boston is all about – providing each student with an opportunity to get an education that is both affordable and accessible.”

This new scholarship and funds are a few of the many ways in which the university supports undocumented students. Additionally, UMass Boston has a team of staff working to support these students in areas such as class advising, mental health support, and career service counseling.

iGrad Enhances Students Financial Literacy

With student loan debt on the rise, climbing mortgage rates, and an increasing cost of living in the Bay State, now more than ever it is important that students are educated in money management. To help, UMass Boston’s Division of Enrollment Management has partnered with iGrad to offer students tools and resources to help them succeed financially.

Developed by financial aid professionals, iGrad is a personal finance platform that was designed to promote financial literacy among college students. Its mission is to empower students to make effective financial and career decisions not only during college but also throughout the course of their lives. The platform will be offered to all students, with content offered in a variety of formats to suit different learning styles.

UMass Boston Honors Veterans

This Veterans Day, UMass Boston’s Office of Veterans Affairs honored current and past service members by hosting a celebration of service event aboard The Odyssey cruise ship. While sailing the Boston Harbor, guests enjoyed a keynote address, recognition of Gold Star Families, and award and scholarship presentations to alumni and current students.

This year, over 180 area veterans, family members, and community supporters attended the celebration.

“It was a great ceremony and touched many people, whether by comradeship or scholarship,” said Gus St. Silva, director of Veterans Affairs.

The event included the distribution of a locally created candy bar designed by the late WWII Veteran Lou Pasquale, the proceeds of which support Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Welcome remarks were presented by John Drew, vice chancellor for enrollment management, and Joseph Berger, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. UMass Boston Professor Emeritus John Looney delivered the keynote address.

Renew the Faculty



Graduate Program Director Ellen Birchander (right) connects with colleagues at the Gerontological Society of America meeting.

Sizable UMass Boston Gerontology Contingent Participates in National Conference

UMass Boston Gerontology faculty, students, and staff delivered more than 60 presentations and posters at the 2023 annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in November in Tampa, Florida.

“This is great representation from our department,” says Edward Alan Miller, PhD, gerontology chair, “not to mention from our alumni, who also have a large presence at the meeting as well.”

UMass Boston gerontology faculty, students, and alumni also will be honored with awards at the conference, including:

- **Bei Wu, MS '97, PhD '00**, Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging.
- **Taylor Jansen, PhD '23**, Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization award for her poster, “Intersection of Race and Place-based Disparities Among Older Adults 65+ in Mississippi.”
- **Nina Silverstein, PhD**, professor emerita, Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Mildred Seltzer Distinguished Service Honor.
- **Marc Cohen, PhD**, co-director of LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston, named a GSA Fellow in the Social Research, Policy, and Practice.

ICI Researcher Receives National Leadership Award

Dr. Clare Papay, a senior researcher at Think College in the Institute for Community Inclusion, received the George Jesien National Leadership Award at the 2023 State of the Art Conference on Inclusive Postsecondary Education and Individuals with Intellectual Disability (SOTA) in Colorado Springs, CO.

Papay conducts research on inclusive higher education for students with intellectual disability. She is the evaluation coordinator for the National Coordinating Center for the TPSID model demonstration program funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education. She is also the co-principal investigator for the IES-funded project, “Moving Transition Forward: Exploration of College-based and Conventional Transition Practices for Students with Intellectual Disability and Autism” and co-principal investigator for the OPE-funded project, “Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network: A Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center.” Papay serves as co-editor for the *Journal of Inclusive Postsecondary Education*.

Improve Delivery of Administration and IT Services

University Announces Beacon Wellness Initiative

In October, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco announced the launch of the UMass Boston Wellness Initiative, which promises to strengthen the coordination of health promotion efforts across the university for the benefit of all – students, faculty, staff, the community, and especially those who face persistent barriers to adequate health services and wellness opportunities.

The objective of the Initiative is to embed health promotion into every aspect of the university's culture and structures, engaging every unit and corner of campus to incorporate health promotion activities into their work. This can foster a collaborative environment of mindfulness for every member of the UMass Boston community. As a next step, a Wellness Commission composed of faculty, students, administrators, and experts is being formed to develop a comprehensive plan for UMass Boston's health promotion efforts and guide the initiative's progress.

Increase Endowment



Steve Curwood from *Living on Earth* reports for the radio show.

Bringing Climate Justice and Community-Based Content to the Airwaves

In September, the Waverley Street Foundation awarded UMass Boston's School for the Environment a two-year, \$982,800 grant to launch the Center for Climate and Environmental Justice Media (CCEJM), in partnership with *Living On Earth*—a long-running environmental news program produced at UMass Boston that airs on 250 public radio stations nationwide.

The newly established center will provide storytelling and media skills training for BIPOC students and members of marginalized communities, then help participants create micro-podcasts and other multimedia products to deliver stories of climate injustice and action to members of their own communities, members of other marginalized communities, and the wider world. The goal of the center is to amplify BIPOC voices in the media while catalyzing community action through compelling content focused on climate and environmental justice. The grant funds will enable the center to hire faculty and production team members, provide internship opportunities to youth and community leaders, develop and launch the CCEJM podcast app and website, and host a CCEJM conference to further expand the center's impact.

Expanding Opportunity for BPS Students through Internship Support

This fall, retired educator Niki Janus established a \$225,000 Niki Janus Urban Scholars Internship Fund, continuing her lifelong commitment to equal access and opportunity for urban youth as they pursue their higher education and explore career options. This is Janus's second endowment at UMass Boston: She funded a \$300,000 endowed scholarship for first-generation students in May 2022.

Over the past four decades, the Urban Scholars Program (USP) at UMass Boston has provided after-school and summer post-secondary education preparation for nearly 1,500 Boston Public High School students, providing them with the tools, resources, and networks necessary to propel them into successful college careers. This crucial stepping stone has seen astounding success, with a college enrollment rate of 98 percent. This new endowment will fund USP's Urban Scholars Internship Program in perpetuity, providing stipends for summer internships.

New Grant Aims to Increase Representation in Urban Planning

In November, the Liberty Mutual Foundation announced a \$100,000 grant to UMass Boston to enhance the Department of Urban Planning & Community Development's Summer Program in Urban Planning. Now in its second year, the program introduces youth of color from high schools in Dorchester and Roxbury to careers in urban planning, design, and development.

It is part of Expanding Boston's Pipeline for Youth of Color in Urban Planning, a citywide initiative launched by the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA), Boston Public Schools, UMass Boston, and Boston Architectural College that is aimed at increasing the percentage of non-white urban planners in Boston from 5 to 25 percent over the next 20 years.

The grant from Liberty Mutual will almost double the number of students involved in the Boston Pipeline Initiative, increase the number of participating high schools from four to six, and add a new after-school component focused on climate resiliency planning. Other funders include the BPDA, which has contributed \$100,000 to the initiative, the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC), and the Conatus Foundation.

New Scholarship Honors Pioneering Boston State College Alumna

Karen Anderson, the daughter of alumna Ruth Krock Anderson '39, has endowed a \$150,000 Ruth Krock Anderson Endowed Scholarship Fund to provide scholarship aid for full- or part-time undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Science and Mathematics, with preference given to students majoring in a science or technology field.

The gift is a tribute to Anderson's mother, a woman whose professional accomplishments could not be constrained by the societal expectations of her time. Ruth's wartime work in the MIT Radiation Laboratory and the Naval Ordnance Test Station, her career as a systems analyst in Washington, D.C., and her pioneering contributions to computer and database design provided fundamental scientific knowledge to the world we know today.

Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace



(from left) Professor Wei Ding, Professor Nir Eisikovits, Ramesh Raskar, John Werner, Paul English, and Provost Joseph Berger participate on the “Succeeding in an AI-Powered World” panel.

UMass Boston Launches Paul English Applied AI Institute

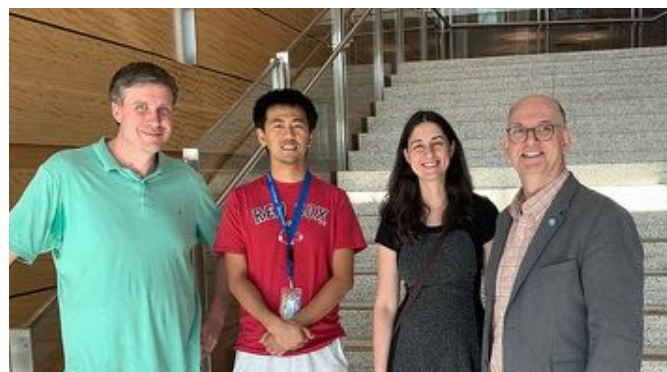
The study and integration of Applied AI into education is not just about preparing students for the task of an AI enabled workforce—it’s about empowering them to shape the future.

That’s the message attendees took away at the launch of the Paul English Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute at UMass Boston on October 31, “Succeeding in an AI-Powered World,” as tech entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and academics came together to discuss how next-generation artificial intelligence is reshaping every field of work and what can be done to prepare students.

“I think a diverse community like [UMass Boston] that aren’t painting by numbers, following what everyone else is doing, you can do things differently and become an incredible leader in the application of AI,” said John Werner, managing director and partner at Link Ventures.

The panel included tech entrepreneur and UMass Boston alumnus Paul English ’87, G’89, H’19, founder of the institute; Werner; UMass Boston Professor of Philosophy Nir Eisikovits; and Ramesh Raskar of the MIT MediaLab and C10Labs AI Studio. The panel was moderated by Professor of Computer Science Wei Ding and Provost Joseph Berger joined the conversation.

The institute was announced earlier this year as the nation’s first university-based institute dedicated to optimizing and democratizing the use of AI tools across a broad range of professions. Conceived and funded by Paul English, the institute’s research, education, and outreach activities will be embedded in academic study across campus and include a focus on the social, ethical, and diversity challenges and opportunities associated with emerging AI tools.



UMass Boston project faculty (from left) Matt Bell, Akira Sone, Olga Goulko and Robin Côté (not shown: Christopher Fuchs)

Quantum Information Science and Engineering Program to be Established at UMass Boston with \$5M NSF Award

A robust Quantum Information Science and Engineering (QISE) program will be established on the UMass Boston campus with the support of a five-year \$5 million award from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Robin Côté, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics (CSM) and professor of physics, is the principal investigator for the project, **Expand QUantum Information Programs at UMass Boston (EQUIP-UMB)**. The EQUIP-UMB team is comprised of faculty from UMass Boston, Harvard, and MIT, with \$4,463,473 of the award designated for UMass Boston and a combined \$536,527 for the MIT and Harvard collaborators.

The funding for EQUIP-UMB comes from the NSF program Expanding Capacity in Quantum Information Science and Engineering (ExpandQISE), which invests in a diversified research and education portfolio to support scientific and engineering breakthroughs and U.S. QISE workforce development.

EQUIP-UMB has a three-pronged approach for building out the UMass Boston QISE program. First, in collaboration with well-established programs at Harvard and MIT, EQUIP-UMB will deliver high-quality research in three focus areas: Quantum Fundamentals, Quantum Metrology and Control, and Co-Design and Quantum Systems. Second, the program will seed fund three new tenure-track positions—two experimentalists (Physics and Engineering) and one theorist (any discipline). Third, a workforce development infrastructure will be put in place to offer training opportunities within the program and internships with industry partners.

Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace (cont.)



Women's Tennis finished off a dominant fall season with a Little East Conference championship.

UMass Boston Athletics Receive Conference and National Recognition

This fall, Beacons teams and student-athletes received both conference and national recognition for their performances.

Women's Tennis won their second straight LEC Championship and earned a bid to the NCAA Tournament after finishing a perfect 8-0 in LEC play. First-year student Zainab Patel was voted the LEC Women's Tennis Rookie and Player of the Year, while Head Coach Jovan Jordan-Whitter was selected as the Coach of the Year.

Men's Soccer finished in first place after a competitive regular season, where they took home four of the five major conference awards. Ryan Lima was selected as the Offensive Player of the Year, Diego Gisholt was chosen as Defensive Player of the Year, John Arruda was selected as the Rookie of the Year, and the UMass Boston coaching staff was selected as the Coaching Staff of the Year.

On the national stage, Ryan Lima was named the United Soccer Coaches Division III Men's Soccer Player of the Week for the week of October 22, and Isabella O'Connell was named the United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division III Player of the Week for the week of October 8.

Healey-Driscoll Administration Names UMass Boston Alum as 2024 Teacher of the Year

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has named De'Shawn C. Washington, a fourth grade inclusion teacher at Maria Hastings Elementary School in Lexington, as the 2024 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year.

Washington, a Boston resident, earned his bachelor's degree in accounting and finance from UMass Boston, and he also holds two master's degrees, one in elementary education and one in special education, both from UMass Boston.

The Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Program is the state's top award for educators and annually recognizes excellence in teaching across Massachusetts through the selection of a teacher who exemplifies the dedication, commitment, and positive contributions of educators statewide.

Outside of school, Washington also runs UMass Boston's Communication and Literacy MTEL prep workshops in the College of Education and Human Development.

UMass Boston Ranked Top Tier National University, Leader in Supporting Student Success

UMass Boston has been ranked in the top tier of national universities and recognized as a leader in supporting the upward social mobility of its students, according to a report released this fall by *U.S. News and World Report*.

The school's undergraduate nursing program was also ranked among the best in the country, coming in strongly at No. 31.

Citing positive marks on class sizes, faculty expertise, and graduation rates, UMass Boston tied with several other schools for No. 216 in the 2024 Best National University Rankings, and No. 116 overall among national public universities. The university ranked No. 47 among national universities — and No. 1 in New England — for social mobility.

U.S. News also ranked UMass Boston's undergraduate psychology program No. 98 in the nation, and its engineering program and computer science program at No. 58 and No. 192, respectively. The university's undergraduate business program was ranked No. 159.

Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace (cont.)



*UMass Boston 2023 Fall Convocation Keynote speaker
Massachusetts Secretary of the Executive Office of
Education, Patrick Tutwiler, PhD*

**Chancellor, Secretary of Education
Inspire Students and Faculty
at Convocation**

Be the ones whose knowledge emboldens the voices of the unheard, inspires advocacy for the underserved, creates technological access for the unconnected, and pioneers cures for the unhealthy. This was the message Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco had for the campus community at convocation, urging everyone to embrace the responsibility that comes with education and learning.

While students, faculty, and staff were welcomed back to classes, September's convocation—which officially marks the beginning of a new academic year—also served to remind the UMass Boston community of their shared mission.

Massachusetts Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler, the first Black person to hold that role in Massachusetts' history, was keynote speaker. Tutwiler encouraged the audience to become runners in their own lives. "UMass Boston family, you have the tools, the mindset, the stuff to succeed in the course set in front of you," he said. "It's no longer the time to be cautious. You've walked before, I'm sure, and now it's time to run."