Overview of the EMK Institute
The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate (the EMK Institute) is dedicated to educating the public about our government, invigorating public discourse, encouraging participatory democracy, and inspiring the next generation of citizens and leaders to engage in the public square. The Institute will be a dynamic center of non-partisan learning and engagement that takes advantage of cutting-edge technology to provide each visitor and other participants with a unique and information rich, personalized experience that will bring challenging and fundamentally important historical and current debates to life. Our programs will serve the general public, students at all levels of their education, teachers, scholars, senators, senate staff, international visitors and others in public service. The EMK Institute building is located on the campus of the University of Massachusetts Boston and is scheduled to formally open in March 2015. Many of the Institute’s programs are already being offered or are currently under development.

Relationship with University of Massachusetts Boston
The EMK Institute and UMass Boston have developed a close partnership, represented by the fact that four seats on the Institute’s Board of Directors are reserved for individuals affiliated with UMass Boston. The Institute will serve as a platform for research and study for UMass Boston faculty and students who will have easy access to the Institute’s programs and resources. The partnership between the two organizations will bring together scholars, students and other stakeholders to leverage cross-disciplinary perspectives. The result will be new understanding and innovative approaches to advancing the educational and research missions of both institutions.

Resources and Programs Available to UMass Boston
In addition to supporting individual scholarly research about the history and operations of the United States Senate, the Institute hosts a selection of Senator Kennedy’s office-related artifacts, video archives and oral history transcripts available for research and study. The Institute will also partner with the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and others, to digitize materials, and will create a comprehensive digital library of US Senate archives and related materials.

The Institute’s college programs will emphasize an interdisciplinary approach to the study of government, drawing on faculty and guest speakers from such diverse fields as Political Science, Economics, International Relations, History, Law, and Urban Planning. The Institute will offer internships for UMass Boston students. Interns will gain valuable experience as ambassadors for the Institute, facilitating the visitor experience, assisting in policy research and content development for interactive educational platforms.