BHCC

Bunker Hill Community College Magazine





in this issue campus news

A Message from the President



Dear Bunker Hill Community College Friends and Partners,

In the past three years, it has become almost cliché to refer to our times as "like no other." Yet as we reflect on the 2021-22 academic year, it was unlike any that have come before. As we inched back toward normalcy in the fall, the pandemic reasserted itself yet again in the form of the Omicron variant in the winter. Thanks to the lessons we learned in the first year of the pandemic, and the

hard work of so many, including our Transition Team, we were able to adapt. We masked, we tested, we vaccinated, and we moved forward, together.

This spring, we took another step toward normalcy: BHCC hosted its first in-person commencement in three years with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu as our Commencement Speaker. I am so proud of all our graduates and eager to see the mark they will make on the world.

The world needs community colleges more than ever at this moment to empower students to surmount the real challenges they face. Mayor Wu reminded us in her commencement address that the founding mission statement of BHCC in 1973 stated "the College exists for its students and its community." Whether it is an associate degree student entering the workforce or transferring to a four-year institution, an aspiring small business owner taking a course at our new Entrepreneurship center, or a high school student gaining college credits through Early College, that original mission remains fundamental.

On behalf of the BHCC community, I am grateful for your continued support of our College. I invite you to enjoy this issue of BHCC Magazine and visit us on campus to see all of the great changes and more in person.

With optimism and gratitude,

Pam Y. Eddinger, Ph.D. President

Bunker Hill Community College Magazine | Summer 2022 | Vol. XVII No. 1 COVER PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF BOSTON/MAYOR'S OFFICE

BHCC Magazine Online

Visit bhcc.edu/magazine for exclusive web extras and a more in-depth look into our featured articles.

Celebrating the Class of 2022 **BHCC** brings Commencement back to campus for this year's graduating class.

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Arts & Culture

U.S. Secretary of Labor Walsh Appoints President Eddinger as Chairperson to the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship

he U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the appointments of 29 members to serve on the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship, and provide advice and recommendations related to its Registered Apprenticeship Program. Registered Apprenticeships are proven models of apprenticeship that has been validated by the DOL or a State Apprenticeship Agency. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh appointed President Eddinger to chair the committee.

The advisory committee promotes greater awareness of the benefits of apprenticeship, fosters increased alignment between apprenticeship opportunities and workforce and education systems, expands apprenticeship into new industries and occupations, and ensures equity for underrepresented populations.

"The Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship represents the combined expertise of leaders across industry and the workforce sector. They will use their collective voices to inspire innovative

apprenticeship and training strategies to boost our economy and build an equitable workforce," said Secretary Walsh. "The advisory committee's members will work to generate expansion opportunities for Registered Apprenticeship and to guide efforts to deliver a system that is accessible to all, including Black and brown Americans, immigrants and women."

"Apprenticeships are a proven learnwhile-you-earn method for equipping workers with the skills and knowledge they need to compete and succeed in a growing economy," said President Eddinger. "While working with Secretary Walsh and the members of the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship, we can amplify the merits of Registered Apprenticeships and highlight how they can strengthen our nation's

workforce and ensure that underrepresented populations share in our country's prosperity.

The committee comprises leaders from across the Registered Apprenticeship

system including employers, labor management organizations,

community colleges, and other institutions. Members serve two-

or three-year terms to advise the Secretary on ways to promote greater awareness on the benefits of Registered Apprenticeship, increase their alignment with workforce and education systems, expand Registered Apprenticeships into new industries and occupations, and expand equity for underrepresented populations. Representatives from the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Education, Energy, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services serve as ex officio members.

"Apprenticeships must come with a pathway for advancement and be good for our communities of color and lift our communities from poverty."

-President Eddinger



"...employers are looking for workers, workers are looking for jobs, and we should aim to 'seize the future.""

-Secretary Walsh



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Movement Makers

President Pam Eddinger was named among the Power 50 "Movement Makers" by the Boston Business Journal.

The Boston Business Journal (BBJ) Power 50 recognizes extraordinary individuals within the Greater Boston business community who are taking a stand, creating change, and taking actionable steps to work together to help Boston grow and be a place for equity, inclusion and diverse point of views.

"It is an honor to be recognized among this distinguished group of professionals," said Pam Eddinger. "My role as president of BHCC is to think more strategically about how we make our institutions hubs for equitable change that best serve our students and our communities."

The 2021 Movement Makers highlighted not only those holding positions of traditional power but also those leading from the pack itself, effecting change in communities across the Greater Boston economy and building a better, more prosperous equal area for all.

"Each of the people on this list is a force in our community and an example of the power that comes from the incredible and diverse talent throughout the region," said Carolyn M. Jones, BBJ market president and publisher. ■





Women & Power

The Commonwealth Institute (TCI) in partnership with the Boston Globe Magazine ranked Bunker Hill Community College number 38 among the Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts.

President Pam Eddinger was listed among women power players driving the Massachusetts economy. Honorees included leaders from various industries including healthcare, education, financial institutions, non-profits and construction.

In an interview with Globe Magazine, President Eddinger shared how she has built and supported successful teams, even amid crises, by focusing on the people who work there. When asked "How do you build resilience into the core of your company?" President Eddinger promoted the importance of formalizing family-friendly policies.

"For the longest time we have said, 'Oh, we want to be a family-friendly workplace.' We've actually put some of these things on paper so that is not just talk, right? So that when we implement it, we would have some form of uniformity of policy that everybody can count on. This time it would be real. It wouldn't be just like at the fiat of whether your supervisor is nice or not."

Bunker Hill Community College Offers Workforce Training Through "Be Mass Competitive" Initiative

BHCC joined Roxbury Community
College (RCC) in taking part in the
new "Be Mass Competitive" workforce
training initiative. The program is a
joint effort from the Massachusetts
Association of Community Colleges
(MACC) and the Massachusetts
Competitive Partnership (MACP), a nonprofit coalition of chief executive officers
representing the Commonwealth's
largest employers, including Bank of
America, Boston Scientific, Eversource,

John Hancock, The Kraft Group, Liberty Mutual, Mass General Brigham, Putnam Investments, Rapid7, State Street Corporation, Suffolk, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and Wayfair.

The initiative seeks to support and advance the successes of persons of color by providing pathways at MACP companies committed to building a diversified workforce. Candidates receive specialized training and career placement services leading to upwardly

mobile employment opportunities at some of the Commonwealth's largest employers.

BHCC and RCC offered up to 12 weeks of Customer Service or General Professional Administrative training at no cost to participants. Participants received professional job coaching throughout their training and into employment, and upon completion of the program earned full-time job offers at MACP employers.





Removing Barriers for Foreign-Trained Healthcare Professionals

Welcome Back Center supports nurses seeking licensure across Massachusetts



At the Boston Welcome Back Center at BHCC, educational case managers have found a silver lining in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic—moving programs and services online allowed the Center to offer services to people that otherwise couldn't access them due to their location, or work and family responsibilities.

Over the past year, Educational Case Manager Allison Cohn served on the governor's Special Commission on Foreign-Trained Medical Professionals. The Commission is charged with looking at regulatory barriers for foreign-trained healthcare professionals and making recommendations to make it easier for nurses and other foreign-trained medical professionals to become licensed in the state.

The Welcome Back Center at BHCC is the state's only career navigation program for foreign-trained healthcare professionals. The Center has worked with nurses trained in 125 countries since its opening in 2012. In 2020, the Center responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by moving services and courses such as their English course and NCLEX exam prep course online. Since then, the Center has aided 95 foreign-trained nurses in successfully navigating the nursing credential evaluation and Massachusetts licensing processes. These nurses have worked in hospitals, emergency rooms, COVID vaccination and testing sites, and community health centers throughout the pandemic.

By offering remote support, BHCC's Welcome Back Center is positioned to better address the acute shortages in nursing professionals seen at hospitals across the state, particularly those in Central and Western Massachusetts.



Skills Refresher Class for Welcome Back Center Nurses

"The COVID-19 pandemic motivated people to want to work in healthcare," says Cohn. "There is so much movement within the field right now that has allowed us to expand our services, and has made it simpler for internationally trained nurses living in all areas of Massachusetts to access our services." ■

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Celebrating Two Years of the DISH Food Pantry



Last fall, the DISH celebrated its second year of operation in a virtual victory ceremony

celebrating its milestones and stories of service. The DISH Food Pantry—known as "the DISH," was created in 2019 to deliver information, sustenance and health to the BHCC community.

The pantry had been open less than six months before the pandemic necessitated a change from a brick and mortar model to an online ordering and delivery model.

"The need has grown exponentially

since the pandemic has started," says Molly Hansen, DISH Food Pantry coordinator. "For our students, being food

insecure can mean choosing between meals and books in ways that many of us will never have to imagine."

This past fall, Hansen partnered with the College's Single Stop office and Veterans Center to launch a semester-long Hunger and Homelessness Awareness series. The series featured panelists and guest speakers from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, Greater Boston Food Bank, Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Hope & Comfort, Caitie's Closet and Dignity Matters, and other partners to share information and their experiences with the College community. Monthly themes included Stand Up & Speak Out: Advocating for Legislative Change; Healthy & Hygienic: Reducing Hygiene Insecurity & Period Poverty; Honoring & Supporting Our Veterans; and Housing First: Solving Homelessness in Boston.

"In order to succeed, you need to eat well," says Kathleen O'Neill, director, Single Stop. "We have found that stigma is the number one reason people do not ask for help when needed. The awareness series was instrumental in helping to alleviate this stigma. Hearing the stories of others who are also struggling or who have struggled in the past has aided people in reaching out to the DISH, knowing if they succeed they will then be able to give back."

Hansen looks forward to continuing the awareness series. She plans to promote themes centered on food insecurity and racial justice; hunger advocacy for immigrant and refugee

"In order to succeed, you need to eat well," says Kathleen O'Neill, Director, Single Stop. "We have found that stigma is the number one reason people do not ask for help when needed..."

populations; and the intersection of hunger, homelessness, and healthcare.

Hansen takes a creative approach to supplying students with food and resources. For example, she offers monthly specialty kits as part of the DISH offerings, putting the kits together by leveraging large donations and supplementing with ingredients purchased locally. The kits, which come with recipes, have themes based on the time of year. For example Soup (Mexican-inspired, Asianinspired, Italian) in the winter; Relaxation during finals; Graduation in the spring; S'more, Popsicle and Red Sox in the summer; and Back-to-School in the

holiday items, Thanksgiving meal essentials, and Passover kits featuring matzoball soup and

fall. The DISH also offers

Passover kits featuring matzoball soup and crackers.

In addition to food items, the DISH offers other products of daily living.

"Cleaning products are extraordinarily popular at the DISH," says

Hansen, who developed a Spring Cleaning kit for students in April. "These include sponges, dish detergent, laundry, dishwasher pods, and other expensive cleaning products."

Other popular items are baby food and feminine hygiene products, such as pads and tampons.

Throughout the pandemic in 2021 and 2022, the DISH continued its partnership with New England-based staffing agency SnapChef to deliver orders to BHCC





Chiharu Nakata found the opportunity to practice her English, and gain a greater understanding of American society through her work at the DISH Food Pantry. Born and raised in China, Nakata studied sociology in Japan. She worked in business development and translation services for Japanese companies for over a decade before coming to Boston in 2019 as an English program student. Recognizing

Chiharu Nakata

"When I first came to Boston and BHCC, I was surprised by the diversity I found within the community," says Nakata. "This was very different from my experiences working and living in Tokyo, and I was looking for a work

the value and quality of a BHCC education,

majoring in accounting and data analytics.

Nakata enrolled at BHCC the next year, double

opportunity that would allow me to meet different people."

Nakata was impressed that the College pantry delivered food to students during the pandemic, and reached out to DISH Coordinator Molly Hansen about opportunities available.

"My work at the DISH may seem simple, but for me, helping students gain energy and strength so they can focus on their studies is very meaningful," says Nakata.

She's also enjoyed working and learning the views of people with different backgrounds and cultures than her own.

"I'll always remember my first day working at the DISH, and how innovative it is in meeting the diverse needs of its students," says Nakata. "The DISH is a warm and friendly place—just like home."

students directly to their homes. While on-campus pickups for DISH users have resumed, the DISH continues to serve over 200 students through a delivery service.

"Some students prefer to pick up their orders if they are on campus for classes, or if they live outside of our 10-mile delivery radius," says Hansen. "For others, it may be an emergency situation where the student needs products from the pantry, but there is no delivery spot available that week. In some cases, we may have multiple users from the same household who choose to pick up their orders together."

Always committed to providing a safe and dignified response to food insecurity, the DISH obtained funding this spring for the purchase and installation of refrigerated smart lockers from commercial automation company Quadient. The new lockers have been named DISH & Dash Lockers, and allow users to pick up their orders outside of the DISH's operating hours including weekends. Providing flexibility in on-campus pickups allows for delivery spots to be available for students who cannot come to campus and for the DISH to serve more students. In just the first two months following the installation of the DISH & Dash lockers, 177 students used the lockers to schedule on-campus pickups.

While similar lockers are used by many educational institutions for mail and delivery services, the DISH at BHCC is among the first college pantries to use such lockers for pantry orders. Locker pickup is integrated into the DISH's SmartChoice ordering system. The experience is similar to a grocery store pickup for the student, where they provide a code to pick up their order and can share that code with a friend or family member if they prefer.



DISH Food Pantry Coordinator Molly Hansen fills DISH & Dash locker pick-up orders.

Learn more about the DISH Food Pantry and how to donate to the DISH at bhcc.edu/magazine

In the spring of 2022: 15,277 pounds were donated, 258 new

intake forms were processed, 846 orders were filled; there were 299 users, 480 deliveries made and 338 on-campus pickups

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JPMorgan Chase Invests \$500K in Student Career Success



JPMorgan Chase invested an additional \$250K in the growth of the BHCC Career Pathways Impact Project (CPIP), which addresses the career counseling needs of community college students. The grant award builds upon a 2020 grant of the same amount to pilot the initiative.

The second phase of CPIP builds a new structure of career support at BHCC that incorporates a holistic review of advising, career preparation, and job placement support. In addition, the project focuses on employer input and integration with current college systems to better enhance the student and employer experience.

"In our first two years of the project, we have more than tripled our original goal of working with 200 students," said Kristen McKenna, Dean of Workforce and Economic Development. "In the second round of funding, we will increase our capacity to career counsel students and expand programming that helps prepare students for the world of work."

To establish a baseline of student and service needs in the first year, the BHCC Workforce and Economic Development Division, with support from the Harvard Project of Workforce research and fellowship program, conducted interviews with more than 75 students, over 30 faculty and staff, 15 employer partners, alumni focus groups and six partner institutions. The research also included 287 assessments from students receiving career counseling from BHCC.

The project's overarching goal is to prepare students for equitable workforce entry and success by making career planning an integral part of the student experience. CPIP's role in the "Ethnography of Work" (EoW) expansion focuses on faculty training, direct faculty/ student support, and solidifying an administrative structure to enable long-term growth. Ethnographies of Work originated at Guttmann Community College, which is part of the City University

of New York public college system, as a year-long social science course and adapted for community colleges and high schools nationwide.

"Bunker Hill Community College is one of the most powerful institutions in Massachusetts and is committed to helping their students, and all community college students, obtain the education, skills, and experiences necessary to succeed in the labor market," said Rafia Zahir-Uddin, Vice President, global philanthropy, New England, JPMorgan Chase. "We are thrilled to continue our investment in this program and enable more BHCC students to access high-wage, in-demand jobs."

In addition, CPIP 2.0 will deepen connections to the local labor market through increased and leveled employer and community-based organization partnerships, including employer and alumni advisory engagement opportunities.



Integrating the study of work throughout the college experience

Watch the Ethnographies of Work video at bhcc.edu/magazine

Congresswoman Pressley Visits BHCC to Deliver \$1M in Federal Funding for Boston's Tuition-Free Community College Program

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) visited BHCC to celebrate the \$1M in federal community project funding she secured to expand the City of Boston's Tuition-Free Community College program. Rep. Pressley was joined by Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, BHCC President Pam Eddinger, and BHCC students for a campus tour and a press conference to highlight how the funding will help address the college affordability crisis

locally as she continues her calls for President Biden to cancel student debt.

Pressley secured this federal funding for Boston in the government spending package that passed Congress and was signed into law by President Biden in March. In total, Rep. Pressley secured over \$8M for 10 community projects across the MA 7th Congressional District, capping off nearly a year of advocacy by Rep. Pressley and local leaders. ■



Cummings Foundation Awards \$100K Toward Equitable Post-Pandemic Recovery Program



BHCC Foundation thanks the Cummings Foundation. Pictured (I-r) is Kristen McKenna, Dean of Workforce and Economic Development, Certified Nursing Assistant student Vienna Erazo, and Professor Lateia Johnson.

The Cummings Foundation awarded BHCC \$100K over the next two years towards funding to contribute to a just and equitable post-pandemic recovery through the Rapid Recovery and Reemployment (R3) program that allows students to study over a shorter period, develop skills in a field and earn an industry-recognized credential, which makes them employable quicker.

The R3 Program at BHCC is a unique initiative that allows students or community members impacted by the COVID-19 economic downturn to get back in the game with financially supported training. An Employment Placement Specialist leads this program, and eligible participants gain access to full tuition

and materials scholarships, as well as a stipend for successful attendance and completion. Students who are unemployed or demonstrate financial need will be considered first for the R3 program.

"With this generous support, we can meet urgent workforce needs by placing trained individuals with local employers in the diverse communities we serve. It is a win-win for students and the local economy," said Dean of Workforce and Economic Development, Kristen McKenna.

The Bunker Hill Community College Foundation, Inc. is one of 140 local nonprofits to receive grants through Cummings Foundation's \$25 Million Grant Program that supports Massachusetts nonprofits based in areas where the Cummings Foundation owns commercial properties.

"We aim to help meet the needs of people in all segments of our local community," said Cummings Foundation executive director Joel Swets. "It is the incredible organizations we fund, however, that do the actual daily work to empower our neighbors, educate our children, fight for equity, and so much more."

BHCC was chosen from a total of 590 applicants during a competitive review process. The college previously received funding from the Cummings Foundation in 2017 to support the C-Town Business Pathways program.

BHCC Wins National Marketing Award

BHCC's Integrated Marketing and Communications division brought home a Bronze Paragon Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations for the computergenerated illustration "Internship Pipeline Lessens Equity Gap" featured in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of BHCC Magazine. Paragon Awards recognize outstanding achievement in design and communication at community and technical colleges.



Pao Arts Center Celebrates 5 Years of Creativity and Culture in Chinatown

Pao Arts Center in Boston's Chinatown celebrated its five-year anniversary in May with an outdoor community block-party-style celebration at Mary Hoo Soo Park on the Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston. BHCC and the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) partnered to create Pao Arts Center in 2017 as the neighborhood's first community-based arts, cultural, and education center.

The anniversary celebration featured

the opening of the "YEAR OF THE TIGER" installation by New York-based artist Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong, commissioned by the Greenway Conservancy, and performances by Wah Lum Academy and Jennifer Lin and dancers, and BHCC student and alumni musicians Minhua Chen, Elgin Lee, Ba Pham, Patricia Seun, and Yu Wang, accompanied by Elgin Lee, poet Chen Chen, dancers Chavi Bansal, IJ Chan and Flora Hyoin Kim Han, and musician Anju.





On Thursday, May 26, 2022, BHCC held its first in-person graduation ceremony in three years with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu addressing graduates as keynote speaker and recipient of the College's Presidential Distinguished Service Award for her advocacy on behalf of Boston students and their access to education and essential services, as well as critical initiatives such as paid parental leave, healthcare equity, and gender equity. The award is given annually to a leader in Greater Boston who exemplifies service to the BHCC community and to the communities it serves.



Top left: Elgin Lee accompanies BHCC alumni Patricia Seun. Top right: BHCC musician Yu Wang performs Wah Lum Academy. Lower right: Bilingual Emcees Alison Chu and Chu Huang, and BHCC President Pam Eddinger make remarks.

PHOTOS COURTESY LEE DANIEL TRAN

"...here, you were told: Let us know what you need in order to learn. Let us help you accomplish your goals."

- Boston Mayor Michelle Wu

"Bunker Hill is an incredible college—dedicated to creating opportunities, and opening doors, for all its students," Mayor Wu said to gathered students, faculty, and staff. "But it is an even more incredible community. I have heard from students who came here afraid that their past performance would determine their future opportunities... And in every case, no matter your situation, I know that, here, you were told: Let us know what you need in order to learn. Let us help you accomplish

BHCC President Pam Eddinger presided over the ceremony in which 1,299 graduates were awarded an associate degree or certificate. "If you use your power to actualize your own potential, if you use your power to affirm your own dignity, then you can reach across to your neighbor and join your power to theirs," Eddinger told

graduates. "We rise, together."

Professor of Biology and Chemistry Libby Dunphy gave the faculty address to the graduating class. "Today...you should be proud of yourself. You have earned this," Dunphy said. "I hope you know that you are an inspiration to me. It is a pleasure to

teach students who are hard-working, serious, and aboveall curious."

In addition to Wu, two other awards were presented at the ceremony. This year's Trustees' Distinguished Service Award was presented by Board of Trustees Vice Chair R. Kelly Cameron to the co-chairs of the College's ReOpen Task Force, Transition Team, and Mental Health Commission, each of which were deeply involved in planning and policy-making at the college during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eddinger also presented College Student Government Association President Chase Baker with the President's Leadership Award, given annually to a student who exemplifies leadership at the College. "As we face our next challenges, don't forget that you and you alone-not family, not social expectations-define what constitutes your success," Baker said. "And don't be surprised if that changes throughout your career. Whatever the future may hold, now is the time for celebration! You should all be immensely proud of what you have achieved."

View bhcc.edu/magazine for more Commencement and Ceremony Highlights.



Bunker Hill Community College is the youngest and the largest of the 15 Community Colleges in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The College serves nearly 18,000 students per year, including 600 international students from 94 countries, speaking more than 75 languages.

The graduating class of 2022 is **1299** strong:

- More than 35% of graduates received Associate of Arts degrees
- Almost 50% of graduates received Associate of Science degrees
- Nearly 15% of graduates received certificates





Above: President Eddinger awards Mayor Wu with the President's Distinguished Service Award.

Left: Co-Chairs of The COVID-19 Leadership Group Nuri Chandler-Smith, Steve Roller, and Melissa Holster accept the Trustee's Distinguished Service Award on behalf of their committees.





THE INTERVIEW

BHCC President Pam Eddinger Interviews Boston Mayor Michelle Wu

Part of an occasional series of conversations with local and national leaders about issues and trends in community college education.

Bunker Hill Community College President Pam Eddinger sits down with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu during her inaugural term to discuss her vision for strengthening education in the City.

Pam Eddinger (PE):

During the campaign and since taking office, you've set out a vision that's changed the way many of us have thought about the meaning of public good in our city, about the social infrastructure that our students and communities rely on to thrive. For example, you've proposed a fare-free MBTA, a Green New Deal and rent stabilization. How are you working to accomplish these priorities, and how can our students get involved in making that happen?

Michelle Wu (MW):

While we've made great progress in making our city work for everyone, change doesn't happen overnight. We've eliminated fares for two years on three MBTA bus lines, launched a Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee to address Boston's housing crisis, and launched a Green New Deal for Boston Public Schools.

As someone who never saw myself in government, I would advise students to get involved with whichever social causes and hot-button issues interest them. Listen to the people who will be most impacted by community issues and never be afraid to ask questions.

Talk about your vision of education. We know you have two boys who are growing up in Boston Public Schools, and you yourself have attended college and graduate school here. What is important to you in your boys' education, and how does that influence your vision of K12 and higher education for Boston residents?



I want my boys and all our young people in Boston to learn in a safe, nurturing environment where they're free to explore all the incredible opportunities BPS (Boston Public Schools) has to offer. I want them to be excited to go to school. On a city level that means building and maintaining school infrastructure, taking care of our educators, and ensuring that our higher education resources are accessible to

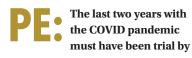
That's why we've launched a Green New Deal for Boston Public Schools, investing and planning to ensure all BPS students have state-of-the-art facilities that they're proud to learn in. On the higher education front, we've expanded early college and innovation pathways, adding six new programs for BPS students to get a jump-start on higher ed.

all students.

How do you see community colleges in this schema?

Community colleges such as Bunker Hill serve a crucial role in making personal and intellectual growth

making personal and intellectual growth accessible to everyone. Working with communities directly, they operate with an intimate knowledge of what is most needed. That's why the City of Boston continues to pay for up to three years of college for low-income eligible students through its Tuition-Free Community College Plan.



fire for you as a new mayor. With the improving conditions, how do you see the City recovering? Do you have a set of priorities to guide us into brighter times?

COVID-19 has forever changed our city, and I'm forever grateful for how we all came together in the face of adversity. As we move out of the pandemic, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make transformational investments in the City using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. By investing in equity, climate justice, jobs and health, we can improve this city for generations to come.

The City has a longstanding commitment to fund free community college for qualified Boston Public Schools graduates. We enroll about a third of BPS graduates in an average year. What are other areas of collaboration you see between the City and the College?

We have a lot of work to do in making higher education affordable for the average Boston resident. In my budget, I've proposed \$6 million in ARPA funding to expand the tuition-free community college and workforce training programs of the 21st century.

Early college education is one example of how fruitful city-college collaboration can be. I'd want to focus further on areas that underline the core tenet of community college: creating opportunities and opening doors for students of all backgrounds.

Across the United
States and locally in
New England, you are
celebrated as a "first"—the first Asian
American woman mayor, and city
council president—amongst the many
accolades. Would you reflect on your
journey and tell us what is joyful and
what is bittersweet? What would you
tell our students who are traveling
that road of being a "first" now?

Throughout my time in politics, I've heard people saying there's no way, it's impossible— whether it's taking on big policy challenges, or getting elected as a woman, or a person of color, or a younger candidate. It has certainly been difficult at many points but being a first also gives me the freedom to move differently in office. To students on that road, I would say to be true to yourself and you will be representing your entire community to reshape the future.

Take us out to the end of your second term. What will you be celebrating at your annual state of the city address?

City government is special because every day is an opportunity to make a difference for our city's families, in ways big and small. My vision for Boston is that we should be the greenest city in America, a city for everyone where families can thrive.

This interview was conducted prior to the announcement of the MBTA Orange Line shutdown.



Carol Gladstone, Board Chair Bill Walczak, and State Representative Dan Ryan spoke to College community members at the ceremony. Right: A large central courtyard will serve as a point of orientation for wayfinding on campus, provide daylight and views for new and existing spaces, and create a new circulation route through campus, relieving pressure on the existing main corridor.

Breaking Ground in Charlestown



BHCC Board Chair Bill Walczak

BHCC broke ground on a new Student Success Center this spring, the first new building in more than a decade and the first of several planned upgrades for the almost 50-year-old Charlestown campus. The building project is part of a statewide effort of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) to invest in and renew public higher education infrastructure.

"Today, we not only mark the beginning of a new building project, but the advent of the next half-century as we reimagine the community college story in this region and this country," said BHCC President Pam Eddinger. "This building...is a down payment on a renewed future—of our College, our communities, and our students."

When complete, the Student Success Center will be home to the College Library & Learning Commons, academic advising, and wrap-around student services that help support BHCC's students, the majority of whom are students of color and are first-generation college students.

The three-story, 56,500-square-foot building will be constructed on the West Lawn of the College's Charlestown Campus. Based on Passive House principles, the building's exterior enhances the college's visual engagement with the community. The building is designed to be Net Zero Energy-ready, integrating a geothermal well field on campus. It is engineered in anticipation of a future photovoltaic array. Additionally, the building uses a highly insulated, high-performing envelope and anticipates projected sea-level change and the rise in base flood elevation by shifting all critical building systems, including the emergency generator, to roof level.

The building's planning, engineering, and construction are led by DCAMM and BOND Building and Construction. NBBJ is the project architect. ■



BHCC Launches Enterprise Center for Entrepreneurship and **Training in Chelsea**



Funded by a Congressional Grant secured by U.S. Senator Ed Markey, the center will help connect small businesses communities with training, expertise and resources

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in the spring of 2020, small businesses were severely impacted. Even after the initial round of closures, the cost of dealing with wave after wave of the virus, new regulations, adaptation to remote work and new modes of meeting customers, many businesses found themselves unsure of where to turn or how to plan for what comes next. Nowhere was this truer than in the City of Chelsea, Massachusetts: the city's unemployment rate early in the pandemic was more than 25%. And, while no statistics are available for Chelsea, an estimated 44% of all small businesses closed throughout the adjacent city of Boston.

But even as COVID shuttered Chelsea's businesses—and those in neighboring communities like East Boston, Everett and Revere—BHCC was already planning for the region's comeback.

This summer, thanks to a \$377,000 congressional grant secured with the help of Senator Edward Markey, BHCC will launch the Enterprise Center for Entrepreneurship and Training (ECET) at the College's Chelsea campus. The first of its kind in Chelsea, the center will provide needed guidance to small businesses in Chelsea, Everett and neighboring communities with an emphasis on Hispanic-owned and operated enterprises. It will provide assistance in multiple languages through online and in-person consultation, and workshops that address talent recruitment, career readiness, business planning, and innovation planning.

"The Enterprise Center for Entrepreneurship and Training represents the kind of workforce development that community colleges like BHCC do best: providing a space that is open to all in the community, from students to workers to small business owners, to learn, to exchange ideas and best practices, and skill up so that they can launch and grow their businesses in their communities," said BHCC Dean of Workforce and Economic

Development Kristen McKenna. "As a federally-designated Hispanic Serving Institution with a long history of partnership with the City of Chelsea, we are uniquely positioned to work with small businesses in the largest Hispanic community in Suffolk County."

Planning for the ECET began in late 2020 when a group formed to complete the Chelsea-Everett Small Business Needs Assessment, a comprehensive study of small business activity and opportunities in those communities. Partners in the group were the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the cities of Chelsea and Everett and College leadership, including Dean of Workforce and Economic Development Kristen McKenna, Chelsea Campus Associate Provost Alice Murillo, and Dean of Professional Studies Austin Gilliland.

What the group found was a significant base of more than 2,000 small businesses across Everett and Chelsea—in sectors as diverse as restaurants and stores to logistics companies and law firms—with a collective \$5 billion in total sales volume. Their research found that what those businesses wanted was access to expertise, training, and advice on best practices, and to a pipeline of skilled, educated and motivated workers. These are exactly what the ECET aims to provide.

When the center launches later this year, it will offer two workshops. One will be an overview of entrepreneurship aimed at individuals who hope to launch their own businesses someday. The other offering will be a boot camp for existing businesses, a kind of crash course in marketing, human resources and planning across industries.

Stay tuned for more information about the ECET, its grand opening later this year, programming and more! Sign up for the Division of Workforce and Economic Development newsletter at bhcc.edu/workforce





"By involving students and staff members from across the College, the HOPE Initiative is a model for breaking down institutional silos."

-Evans Erilus

he services provided by the HOPE Initiative are grounded in the philosophy of putting student voices and experiences at the forefront. HOPE is an asset-based, student-centered program that concentrates on the gifts of Black and Latino males and the ways in which society and higher education must shift to better recognize these gifts.

The dedicated faculty, staff, and student ambassadors that run the HOPE Initiative provide resources and networks for students to navigate college both on and off campus, taking a multilayered approach that includes multiple touchpoints with students by both peer mentors and professional staff.

"It's a real labor of love," says Erilus, who was brought into the discussion on Black and Brown men through the HOPE Think Day series by HOPE Co-Leads Carlos Maynard and Nuri Chandler-Smith, and has been with HOPE every step of the way. "So much about being in college is about mattering. We look for opportunities to make students feel connected to the College, and to create that sense of belonging so that the students feel they are part of something."

As part of the project in spring 2020, HOPE received a Data4Impact (D4I) grant for the collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data to identify and address inequitable systems and structures at the College so Black men and Latinos can thrive. This funding allowed for the pilot of the HOPE Ambassadors program, a student-driven effort to gather and analyze qualitative data, as well as to provide peer mentorship, resiliency guidance, problem-solving support, general (non-academic) assistance, and "safe space conversations" for Black and Latino males at BHCC.

In 2021, the HOPE Initiative partnered with the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC) to launch HOPE Forward, a collaboration between the Opportunity Youth Collaborative and the HOPE Initiative. BHCC has worked with the PIC for over a decade to provide coaching for Boston Public School graduates as part of the Success Boston college completion initiative. Success coaches at BHCC help students succeed academically, balancing their education and work life, and imagining their career paths beyond college.

The HOPE Forward program builds on the Success Boston framework, focusing on outreach and coaching for young men of color, students who have stopped out of college, students starting college late, and students transferring from other colleges.

Working with the Opportunity Youth Collaborative and PIC Youth Transitions Director, Kathy Hamilton, Erilus has used student input to develop high-touch strategies to scale up pathways for success and increase college completion taking the student perspective on issues that directly affect their lives.

HOPE Ambassadors are student leaders and recent BHCC alumni who form connections with students, execute first-level advising, and provide resources and directions that eliminate barriers as students navigate their college experience.

Ambassadors receive training at the beginning of each semester on these outreach strategies and training on critical resources throughout the term. In the process, they become well versed in navigating BHCC resources, and serve as peer mentors for students, gathering student voices through surveys and focus groups, and bringing their voices to data committee meetings and partner convenings.

Series of Engaging Events

This past fall, the HOPE Initiative created a series of events focused on engaging students throughout their experience at BHCC. These included a Welcome Month series to provide students the opportunity to engage with HOPE staff and peers through open office hours, workshops, dialogue series discussions and dinners. The activities offered an overarching welcome to the start of a new semester and celebrated participants as individuals. The HOPE Initiative provided a host of other programs over the fall and spring semesters including a Student Dialogues series that provided affinity-based spaces for Black and Latino males to share their experiences and for staff to gather qualitative data.

For Erilus, the biggest takeaway from these focus groups is that



The HOPE Initiative leans on the knowledge and experience of not only its staff, but also the BHCC community in forming connections with Black and Latino male students.

students need to know, not just feel, that they matter. "They need to see an accurate reflection of themselves in their experiences and feel included," he says. "This is what leads to persistence and retention. It's about being a part of something, and in a lot of ways in higher education, we need to break down those institutional inequities and barriers."

By engaging students in their experience, the HOPE Initiative is establishing a data-driven and student-centered foundation for responsive (vs. reactive) programming and services. This data collection and programmatic response model has been integrated throughout HOPE.

Additionally, the HOPE Initiative has created faculty-led study group sessions in gateway courses, such as accounting, English, and math, that are designed to promote this affinity-based collaborative learning model. Participants are offered incentives for consistent attendance and engagement.

HOPE also welcomes students to monthly dinner gatherings known as #BREAKINGBREAD dinner events. These are held at culturally relevant restaurants in students' communities and create an opportunity for HOPE Success Scholars and staff to gather outside of the college campus.

Professional Development Key

HOPE acknowledges the importance of professional development that enables faculty, staff, and administrators at the College to be active contributors to the elimination of systemic barriers to student success. Over the past several years, HOPE has offered faculty and staff the Black Minds Matter course and an Open Yale African American History course that provides theoretical frameworks, research, and best practices on issues facing boys and men of color in education.

And, in the fall of 2021, HOPE rolled out a new paid, semester long fellowship opportunity for faculty and staff to engage in professional development with project-based deliverables facilitated by HOPE Co-Lead Carlos Maynard. HOPE Fellows identified, researched, and developed projects that aligned to their courses or work areas to support HOPE Initiative student outcomes.

"By involving students and staff members from across the College, the HOPE Initiative is a model for breaking down institutional silos," says Erilus, stressing the importance of crosstraining staff members at the College so they are better prepared to serve students. "This model allows for students at the College to have access to staff from the International Center, Veterans Center, Admissions, Dual Enrollment and Early College, and Single Stop."

The HOPE Initiative serves as a gateway to understanding BHCC students and their experiences, and using this understanding to provide collective and individualized resources for Black and Latino males that helps them feel part of the College community and empowers them to excel at BHCC and beyond.

While the HOPE Initiative launched as an initiative to remove barriers keeping males of color from attaining their goal of completing college, Erilus hopes to expand the program to empower women and other students of color at BHCC.

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE



David Timothy

HOPE Ambassadors build community for males of color at BHCC

Business Administration major David Timothy enjoys having the opportunity to help students directly. "It's a really beautiful initiative and idea," he says.

As a HOPE Ambassador, Timothy forms connections with students on campus and makes sure they know about the resources available to them to make them successful. "I am able to help people in a different way than I have before—especially because I am able to affect change and have a voice in how Black and Latino males are seen at school and how they are informed."

Timothy transferred to BHCC from Berklee College of Music right at the inception of HOPE's work with the Boston Private Industry Council. While the support he found at BHCC afforded him the opportunity to work on himself and his artistry—his first album is due to be released later this year—it's his experience as an Ambassador that allowed him to witness HOPE's impact on retention and graduation rates among his peers. "It's an opportunity that allows me to change the narrative, and to perpetuate a community that ensures the success of its members."

Last fall, Timothy along with his fellow Ambassadors, represented HOPE at a youth forum leading up to the Boston mayoral election. The group brought the lens of how the election would affect community college students, particularly Black and Latino males who had stopped going to school or engaging in their society.

"Our main focus was youth voices," he says. "We focused on the statistical data available. We wanted to get a clear sense of each candidate's plan to make sure that city youth were strengthened and set up for success, and how they would encourage students to come back to school."

Timothy believes that more schools should adopt a similar philosophy for their students on an institutional level. He looks forward to seeing the HOPE Initiative continue to grow and expand to other communities on campus.

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Breaking Bread dinner event series supports and connects HOPE Scholars and Black and brown businesses in Boston.

HEALTH IS WEALTH



Featured Keynote Speaker Styles P, American rapper and speaker

The HOPE Initiative welcomed rapper, speaker and entrepreneur Styles P to its first Virtual Student Summit in April. The "Health is Wealth" event focused on healthy choices, exercise, mental wellness, and career pathways.

Styles P, a member of The LOX, is the co-owner of Juices for Life with Jadakiss, who he grew up rapping alongside. The pair is committed to bringing health access to low-income communities through access to healthy food and information. They have opened a chain of juice bars in New York City's food deserts.

"Health is the key ingredient to whatever you're trying to achieve in life," said Styles P, stressing the importance of both physical and mental health in a panel discussion moderated by HOPE Ambassadors. "It's not a separate conversation. You take care of yourself first to the best of your ability, then your family and community. If you all take the time to do this, we'll make the world a better place."

Deepening Engagement

Learning Communities outcomes bring renewed focus on asset-based and culturally relevant practices

The Office of Learning Communities welcomed BHCC faculty to participate in a professional development Institute, Deepening Engagement with Community Learning Outcomes Using a Cultural Wealth Framework, just prior to the start of the spring 2022 semester.

In this virtual Learning Community Institute, participants engaged with their colleagues in curriculum development, integration of high-impact practices, and community building using a cultural wealth lens. One of the main goals of the Institute was for the College community to become more familiar with the new outcomes approved for all Learning Communities in the spring of 2021. "These outcomes are transparent in their focus on equity and cultural wealth and bring renewed focus on asset-based and culturally relevant approaches," said Lindsay Naggie, Interim Director of Learning Communities. "It is important to have a common understanding of these outcomes because the work that we do in Learning Communities is built on collaboration and integration."

As part of the opening welcome address, Dean of Humanities and Learning Communities Lori Catallozzi provided a brief history of the Learning Communities model and its positive impact on student success and equitable outcomes for students. "We have historical data and context that show that Learning Communities work, and we have opportunities given some of the changes we've recently made to strengthen them. Learning Communities is entering the next phase and it's going to be critical that we involve many departments across campus in this transition."

Center for Equity and Cultural Wealth Director Lee Santos Silva delivered the Institute Keynote Address, sharing with participants how the Learning Communities Program has championed equity and cultural wealth at the College and is positioned to deepen this work at BHCC moving forward.

"We're not strangers at BHCC to this work," he said.
"Over the years, a number of our initiatives have

centered not only on cultural wealth but equity-minded practices to transform how we do our work."

Silva went on to share results from Developmental English Reform and ELL Curricular Revision as powerful examples of the ways in which centering equity-minded practices has impacted how the College serves its students. He also noted examples of BHCC centering cultural wealth through a number of initiatives, citing the College's HOPE Ambassador program, partnerships spearheaded by the Learning Communities Program with the Museum of African American History and UMass Boston Asian American Studies Program, and the Latinx Student Success Initiative collaboration with the Gastón Institute at UMass Boston.

Looking at how Learning Communities is uniquely positioned to continue to contribute to our cultural wealth work at BHCC, "there are advantages that could propel us forward pretty quickly and effectively," said Silva. "One is considering the reach and scope of Learning Community Seminars and Clusters—the body of students you can reach at once in a way that is aligned through curriculum and practices—positions it as a vehicle to deliver."

A lot of the core tenets of Learning Communities and cultural wealth align really well, including the emphasis and value on community building; leveraging students' personal experiences as vehicles for learning in the class; reimagining and repositioning students as co-creators of knowledge, not just passive receptors of knowledge; and the value on active and collaborative learning."

Following the keynote presentation, attendees participated in workshops that provided them the opportunity to design outcome-driven assignments, focus on learner-centered pedagogies, and collaborate with their colleagues on culturally sustaining approaches for achieving equitable outcomes for all students.

Learn more about Learning Communities at bhcc.edu/magazine

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arts & culture

BHCC continues its longstanding tradition of hosting nationally recognized thought leaders, scholars and artists to engage, challenge and inspire students, faculty, staff and community.

Over the course of the academic year, these special guests partnered with the College to share their experience, research and ideas. Their mediums were a mix of onstage conversations, literary readings, performances, gallery exhibitions and compelling lectures that expanded and challenged the College community's awareness of contemporary issues.

RECOGNITION AND RECKONING

Empowering Men of Color through Equity and Cultural Wealth



BHCC hosted its 5th Annual Equity and Cultural Wealth Institute in June. This year's Institute centered and amplified the equity and cultural wealth of men of color and drew over 300 participants, including faculty and staff from BHCC and nine of our sister community colleges, and members of community-based organizations and museums from across New England.

The three-day experience featured nationally renowned scholars, artists, and activists, including National Book Award-winning author and founding Director of the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. Dr. Pedro Noguera, sociologist, researcher, and University of Southern California Distinguished Professor of Education, and Dr. J. Luke Wood, creator of the "Black Minds Matter" webinars and distinguished professor of Education at San Diego State University were also featured speakers at the Institute.

Over the course of the three days, participants were asked to analyze and discuss complex and intersectional identities of males of color and the historical, cultural, and/or social factors that impact the experiences of males of color in academic or work settings; share and analyze resources to facilitate outcomes for males of color; and recognize and apply equity-minded perspectives to and strategies to reform institutional systems, structures, and/or policies that impact males of color.

The first two days were held virtually and included breakout sessions, workshops, and critical reflection opportunities. The third day brought attendees together for in-person and virtual opportunities to strategize and implement key takeaways from the Institute.

Learn more about the Center for Equity and Cultural Wealth at bhcc.edu/magazine



Ibram X. Kendi



Pedro Noguera



J. Luke Wood

Compelling Conversations

Sponsored by the Office of Equity,
Diversity, and Inclusion, BHCC's
Compelling Conversations speaker
series invites today's diverse voices,
eminent thought leaders, and visionaries
from both domestic and international



platforms to share local, national, and global perspectives on contemporary and culturally relevant issues of human interest, social justice, and change.

The 2021-22 Speaker Series sought to recognize and give greater visibility to Men of Color and issues of race and gender inequity they often experience in education and employment, family and mentorship, violence and health, civil rights and criminal justice. The series is

intended to engage and inspire students, faculty, staff, and our community and to support meaningful discussion inside and outside of the classroom as part of an ongoing college-wide commitment of equity and cultural wealth, resistance, and resilience.

Award-winning poet, author, and educator **Jose Olivarez** (left) kicked off this year's series as part of the College's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, reading excerpts from his book *Citizen Illegal*.

The College welcomed Resident Artist Larry Spotted Crow Mann (above) in October for an open dialogue about the state of Indigenous communities across the United States. His invitation to all of us was to look at holidays like Indigenous Peoples Day as an opportunity to make fundamental shifts in education instead of choosing celebration. "Think about the children. Think about the land," he offered. "It's a time for reconciliation."

Criminal justice activist and Dorchester native **Sean Ellis** whose case of wrongful incarceration was released in the Netflix documentary "Title 4" spoke about resilience, community and criminal justice reform." If you don't have any hope, then it's hard to move forward," Ellis told the

audience. "It's getting to the point where you build up on your core, the strength and inner level of one's self to hold on to that hope."

Philonise Floyd, {below) social changemaker and brother of the late George Floyd, spoke to the BHCC community as part of the series. He focused on the importance of advocacy



and using your own voice to effect change, sharing how in the months following his brother's murder, he turned his grief and sorrow into activism, speaking around the country about police violence.

The series culminated with a presentation from **Kenji Yoshino**, (below) constitutional law scholar, anti-discrimination advocate, and award-winning author of *Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights.*

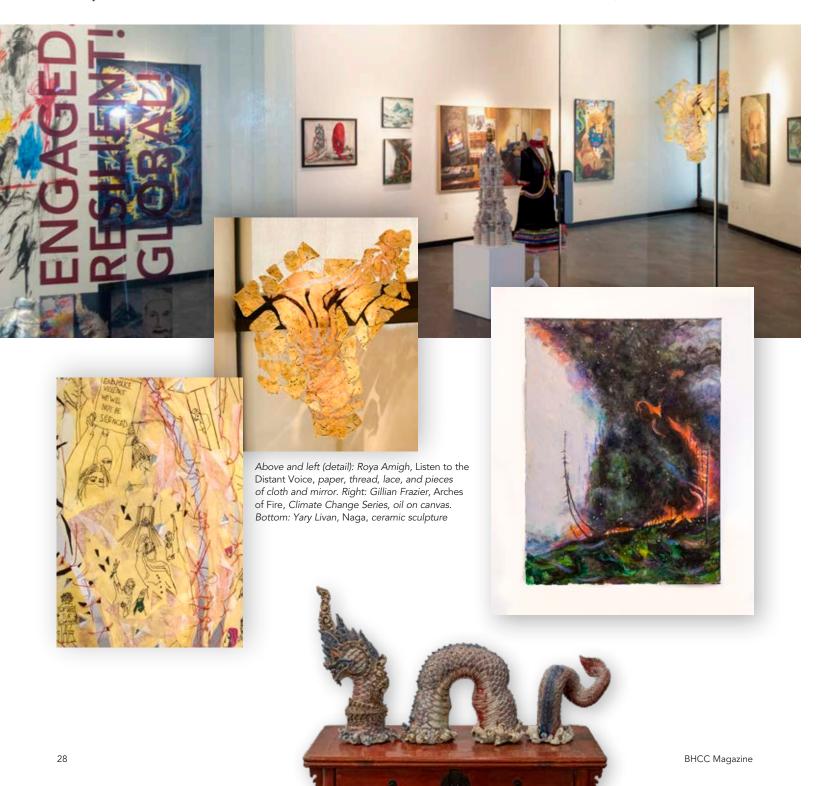


ENGAGED! RESILIENT! GLOBAL!

Selections from BHCC's Teaching and Learning Collection, Faculty, Resident, and Visiting Artists were presented at the Mary L. Fifield Art Gallery this winter. The group exhibition illuminated the power and importance of international education and global exchange, and allowed for the opportunity for the College community to experience art that connects cultures, crosses borders, and envisions a bold new future.

Featured artists included Robin

Chandler, Julio Flores, Gillian Frazier, Deta Galloway, David Goldman, Maddu Huacuja, Renold Laurent, Alberto Lanzano, Yary Livan, Woomin Kim, Proshot Kalami, Jimmy Valdez Osaku, Consuelo Perez, and Wen-ti Tsen. ■





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Charlestown Campus

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