

“Nursing is Both, an Art and an Applied Science”

The University of Massachusetts system has received a \$50 million cash gift from Robert and Donna Manning. The first \$15 million is being distributed to the UMass Boston, College of Nursing and Health Sciences and it's the largest gift that the university has ever received. As a part of the gift, the college will be renamed to the Robert and Donna Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences at UMass Boston.

The generous gift from the Manning's will be used to educate and prepare nurses and health professionals of the future. This will include investing in innovative state-of-the-art ways to educate and engage these professionals including: use of technologies in cutting-edge simulation spaces; development of augmented and virtual reality platforms, telehealth, digital health; building a diverse faculty that is representative of our students and the community we serve; developing creative partnerships with hospitals, community-based systems, and health promotion/wellness facilities to address systemic bias and health equity; welcoming more health equity scientists and clinical experts to the college to mentor and develop all learners; and offering scholarships to students to continue to give access to opportunities to succeed in studies and in the health workplace. Healthcare is constantly changing, and this gift will allow the college to remain up to date and implement more creativity how learners learn well and subsequently serve citizens of the commonwealth.

Donna Manning was an Oncology nurse at Boston Medical Center for 35 years. During her time there, she noticed that the nurses were taking care of a diverse population of patients, but the staff was not representative of them. In order to improve patient outcomes and make healthcare more equitable, Donna Manning has hopes of making nursing more diverse and inclusive.

Diversity and inclusivity are also important values of UMass Boston, along with community and leadership. “The College of Nursing and Health Sciences is the fastest-growing college at UMass Boston and offers the only four-year public programs in nursing and exercise and health sciences in the Greater Boston area. The undergraduate and graduate population of approximately 2,100 students in the college is 19% Black, 12% Latinx and 11% Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI)”, according to an article written by the UMass Boston Office of Communications. During a time where there are nursing shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the university is committed to developing the next diverse generation of nurses and health professionals who are leaders and promoters of health equity.

“I think what Robert and Donna Manning did was not only incredibly generous but it's also representative of action from their hearts to build a path for the mission of our University and our College to be known for excellence in health equity, diversity informed knowledge, and development of health professionals ready for the future,” said Rosanna DeMarco, Interim Dean and Professor of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. “Nursing is both, an art and an applied science, and I believe that's what the Manning's invested in. We will use this gift wisely to honor both of these focused aspects of the nursing discipline through the talented men and women who come to study with us”.