

To the Board:

I am pleased to present this quarterly report highlighting the progress we have made in furthering the mission of UMass Boston. This report underscores the importance of collaboration in higher education today. Partnerships between UMass Boston, community organizations, international higher education institutions, businesses, and government generate opportunities that enable our Beacons to receive an education that meets the needs of the 21st-century workplace. Indeed, UMass Boston's broad external engagement enriches our teaching, research, and scholarship and prepares students for lives of consequence.

- Our cover story highlights a visionary \$1M gift from UMass Boston Applied Artificial Intelligence Institute founder Paul English to Boston Public Schools (BPS) to fund AI education. Beginning this fall, UMass Boston will launch pilot AI modules with a goal of providing every BPS student with AI competency, positioning BPS as one of the first K–12 school districts in the country to do so. The partnership is aimed at better equipping BPS students and educators with the skills, curriculum, and opportunities to be proficient with AI, to succeed in the workforce, and to access greater economic opportunities in an evolving economy. (page 1)
- A UMass delegation that included President Marty Meehan traveled to Dublin, Ireland to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the leadership of Dublin City University. The agreement opens new avenues for academic collaboration and student mobility through student and faculty exchanges, joint research funding opportunities, and other activities. (page 4)
- UMass Boston marked a milestone in campus safety when it cut a ribbon to open the new Police & Public Safety Station. The new station consolidates all police and public safety operations into a unified, dedicated space designed to support efficiency, collaboration, and rapid response. (page 2)

I trust you will appreciate this report on our progress.

– Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco



Mayor Michelle Wu and Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco speak with students after announcing a new public-private partnership to support BPS' ongoing efforts to boost AI literacy.

Boston Public Schools, UMass Boston Partner on Student AI Literacy Initiative

Boston Public Schools (BPS) and UMass Boston will lead a new public-private partnership between government, academia, and industry to support BPS's ongoing efforts to boost AI literacy for students across the district. UMass Boston alum, Paul English, has made a \$1 million contribution to the effort.

The new partnership is aimed at better equipping BPS students and educators with the skills, curriculum, and opportunities to be proficient with AI, succeed in the workforce, and access greater economic opportunities in an evolving economy. UMass Boston will serve as the higher education partner for this initiative, bringing its leadership as Boston's only public R1 research university and its deep partnership with BPS to help expand excellence, access, and opportunity for students across the city.

“Our goal is to make Boston Public Schools the best in the country and first choice for families. As we continue to see new technology emerge, this groundbreaking public-private partnership between government, academia, and industry advances that vision and ensures our students are prepared and ready to excel in the workforce and economy of tomorrow,” said Mayor Michelle Wu.

Cover story (cont.)

To ensure BPS students are connected to opportunities and best prepared for the workforce upon graduation, the district will work with UMass Boston's Paul English Applied Artificial Intelligence Institute—the nation's first university-based institute dedicated to optimizing and democratizing the use of AI tools across a broad range of professions—to develop curriculum, expand engagement opportunities for students, provide resources for educators, and improve operations district wide. Boston Public Schools will co-develop Applied AI learning opportunities with UMass Boston for BPS students.

"This visionary \$1M gift to Boston Public Schools will pioneer the application of AI to educational equity and deepen our partnership with BPS on educational initiatives that serve the city of Boston. We believe that competency in applied AI can be a great equalizer and provide real economic opportunity to any student, regardless of background," said Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco.

Develop First-Rate Infrastructure



University leaders and public safety officials cut the ribbon on the new police station.

UMass Boston Celebrates Opening of New Police & Public Safety Station

UMass Boston marked a milestone in campus safety with the ribbon cutting of its new Police & Public Safety Station on April 6.

The new station, which has relocated to the upper level of the Service and Supply Building, centralizes key operations, enhances overall effectiveness, and upgrades important systems, strengthening the department's ability to serve the UMass Boston community.

The event brought together university leadership, public safety officials, and state partners to celebrate a project that unifies the university's police and public safety operations under one roof for the first time in more than a decade.

Nearly 15 years ago, the department gave up a portion of its original station to accommodate the Integrated Sciences Building, resulting in operations split across two locations. The new station consolidates those functions into a single, purpose-built space designed to support efficiency, collaboration, and rapid response.

The station reflects the university's commitment to sustainability. Rather than constructing a new building, the project modernized existing campus infrastructure—an approach that avoided significant environmental impact.



Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco joined Vice Chancellor of Athletics Jacqueline Schuman and the softball team on their renovated field.

UMass Boston Completes Softball Stadium

UMass Boston Athletics has completed renovations to its softball field, representing a significant investment in the student-athlete experience and the continued growth of the program for the 2025 Little East Conference champions.

The project included a new turf field, upgraded dugouts, new press box, new scoreboard, and enhanced stadium seating for an improved spectator experience. These improvements provide an upgraded playing surface and elevated game day environment for our student-athletes, coaches, and fans. Additionally, the improved walkways surrounding the stadium enhance accessibility and create a more welcoming entry point for students and fans arriving on campus. The renovated facility positions the Beacons to better support competitive success while also expanding opportunities to host conference and national competition and engage the campus and surrounding communities.

Continue a Positive Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate

UMass Boston Hosts Inaugural Courageous Conversations

The Office of Inclusive Excellence and Belonging launched its inaugural Courageous Conversations Speaker Series with an evening featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and creator of *The 1619 Project*, Nikole Hannah-Jones, whose work has sparked national dialogue on race, history, and democracy. Titled *History Reexamined: Truth Reclaimed*, the event invited students, faculty, staff, and community members into a thoughtful and engaging discussion centered on reframing U.S. history through the legacy of slavery, the contributions of Black Americans to democracy, and the ongoing pursuit of racial justice. The conversation underscored the university's commitment to fostering spaces for honest dialogue, critical inquiry, and transformative learning.

Designed to highlight and empower the next generation of leaders, the evening showcased student and faculty voices at the center of the program, including host and graduate student Racheal Inegbedion, student moderator Anais Pokua, and faculty moderator Keyana Parks.



(From left) Nikole Hannah-Jones speaks with student Anais Pokua and Assistant Professor Keyana Parks at the inaugural Courageous Conversations event.

Maintain and Improve Affordability and Access

Expanding Global Reach: UMass Boston Hosts International Counselor Fly-In

As part of its expanding international recruitment strategy, UMass Boston hosted a Global Counselor Fly-In Program in May, welcoming 16 secondary school college counselors from 9 countries. These counselors, arriving from Brazil, Colombia, India, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa, and Vietnam, represent a diverse range of educational systems and collectively advise hundreds of prospective college students each year.

This initiative reflects a strategic response to the evolving global higher education landscape shaped by visa delays, geopolitical uncertainty, rising costs, and intensified competition among institutions. Within this context, engagement with key influencers, particularly school counselors, has become an essential component of effective recruitment. In providing this campus visit experience, UMass Boston enables counselors to develop a direct and informed understanding of the university's academic offerings, research environment, and student support systems, strengthening their ability to accurately represent the institution to prospective students and families.

Engagement with the international college counseling community has become a core strategic pillar within Enrollment Management and International Admissions and has expanded significantly over the past 12 months. Initiatives such as the Counselor Fly-In Program contribute to long-term pipeline development, strengthen institutional reputation in key global markets, and support enrollment outcomes in an increasingly competitive environment.

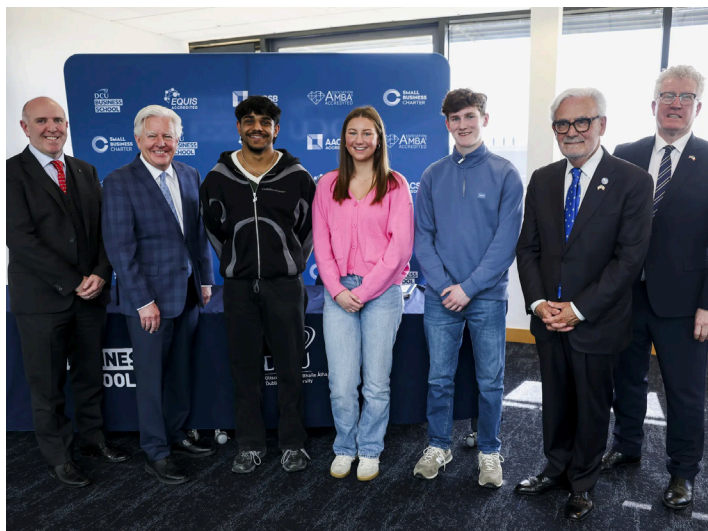
2026 Beacons Day of Giving Drives Record Support for UMass Boston Athletics

The third annual Beacons Day of Giving, held April 8 through 10, brought the UMass Boston Athletics community together in a powerful show of support for the university's 20 NCAA Division III teams and more than 325 student-athletes. This year's effort built meaningfully on last year's momentum, raising \$165,603 from 1,086 donors—an increase of more than \$21,000 (15%) over 2025.

Athletics supporters used this year's event to give more generously than ever, with the average gift rising from \$52 in 2024 to \$77 in 2026, a 48 percent increase. Participation was especially strong among supporters of men's soccer (164 gifts) and men's lacrosse (148), though every team felt the pride and connection of alumni, families, friends, and fans.

Funds raised through the Beacons Day of Giving will continue to support invaluable work across Beacons Athletics, including team travel, sports performance and sports medicine resources, essential equipment, and student-athlete leadership development. These investments help ensure that student-athletes can fully engage in their athletic pursuits without added financial strain. Gifts also help expand access to mental health and life coaching services and create additional travel opportunities, contributing to a more comprehensive and supportive student-athlete experience.

Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise



Leaders from Dublin City University Business School (DCUBS) and UMass pose for a photo after the signing of a dual degree.

DCU Business School, UMass Boston Sign Degree Agreement

Dublin City University Business School (DCUBS) welcomed a senior delegation from the UMass system recently for the signing of a dual degree between UMass Boston and DCUBS, as part of Global Business USA. This marks a significant step in strengthening academic collaboration between Ireland and the United States.

The UMass delegation was led by Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and President Marty Meehan, and included Claire Cronin, former U.S. ambassador to Ireland and scholar in residence at UMass, and UMass Boston Executive Director of the Office of Global Programs Shaun Morgan.

“Through this partnership between our two leading urban public universities, the new dual-degree program strengthens workforce development in both nations by training the next generation of business leaders and connecting the U.S. and Irish talent pipelines,” said Chancellor Suárez-Orozco. “At the same time, it expands opportunities for students to broaden their academic, cultural, and professional horizons, deepening the enduring economic and cultural ties between the U.S. and Ireland. We want more of Dublin and Boston and more of Boston in Dublin.”

The delegation also toured DCU Business School's Virtual Reality Lab, highlighting the university's focus on innovation in teaching and research. The agreement is expected to support expanded cooperation across a range of areas, including student mobility, joint research initiatives, and academic program development, further strengthening ties between Dublin City University and UMass Boston.

UMass Boston Report Shows Variation in Child Care Shortfalls Across Massachusetts

A report released by the UMass Boston Early Education Cost and Usage Simulator (CUSP) Project team, *Mapping Child Care and Early Education Capacity to Needs in Massachusetts*, demonstrates that the commonwealth's current licensed capacity for early education and child care is uneven across the state. Further, the report's maps show pockets of severe and extreme shortfalls in infant and toddler capacity in centers and family childcare settings.

Led by the Early Education Leaders Institute and Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, the UMass Boston CUSP Project has developed a statistical model to produce estimates of key impacts resulting from expanding access to affordable, quality child care and early education.

“With so many families in need of licensed child care and early education, the state and localities must carefully consider how to best address shortfalls in those areas with the least capacity to meet current and future demand,” said Anne Douglass, professor of early childhood education policy and founding executive director of Early Education Leaders Institute.

University Research Awards for the Past Quarter

- Juliet Girard/Biology received \$2,135,375 from the National Institutes of Health-National Institute of General Medical Sciences for *Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Stem and Progenitor Cell Development During Homeostasis and After Injury*.
- Melissa Pearrow/Behavioral health Integrated Resources for Children (BIRCh) Center received \$500,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for *FY26 Earmark 1 BIRCh DESE – Development and Implementation of a School-Based Behavioral Health TA Center*.
- Marie Fallon/Center for Social Development & Education received \$207,808 from the University of Massachusetts Foundation (sub from American Camp Association) for *Character at Camp Implementation Grant*.
- Callie Brusegaard Zube/Global Inclusion & Social Development – Dean's Office received \$200,000 from the University of Massachusetts Foundation (sub from Sarah K. de Coizart Perpetual Charitable Trust) for *NERCVE Brailier: Reaching Full Capacity and Application for Maximum Impact*.

Continued on page 5

Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise (cont.)

- Melissa Pearrow/Behavioral health Integrated Resources for Children (BIRCh) Center received \$200,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for *FY26 Earmark 2 BIRCh DESE – Development and Implementation of a School-Based Behavioral Health TA Center*.
- Robin Cote/DataQS Center received \$130,000 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (sub from U.S. National Science Foundation) for *NQVL:QSTD: Design: Open-Stack Rydberg Atom Quantum Computing Laboratory (ORAQL)*.

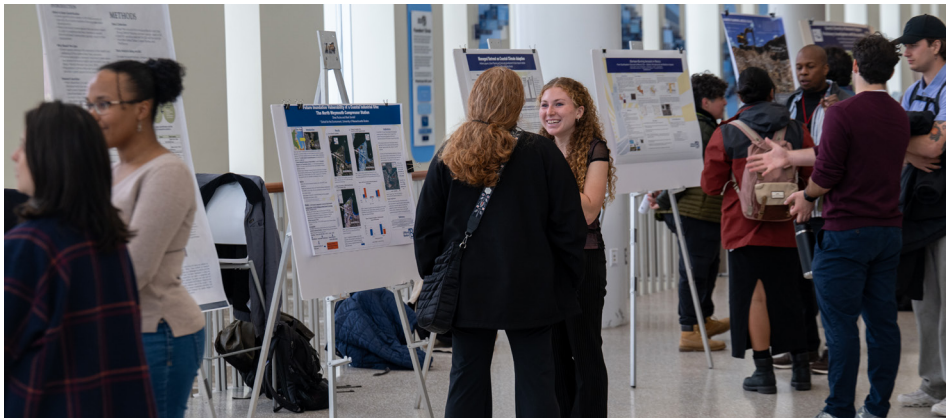
UMass Boston Celebrates Earth Month

UMass Boston's School for the Environment and the Office of Campus Planning & Sustainability collaborated to offer a full calendar of environmental events, including a symposium and activity fair on Earth Day. Hosted by the School for the Environment, the Earth Day Symposium allowed dozens of students and faculty to present their research, both on stage and in a series of poster sessions.

"It's become a real celebration of our enthusiasm to save our world," said Elizabeth L. Sweet, associate dean of the School for the Environment. "The mission of our school is to really engage with people—communities, students, faculty, and staff—to get as many as possible working with each other to take action. This school is transdisciplinary; we believe everyone has something to add."

The posters on display featured work in geoscience, genetics, psychology, urban planning, art, and a wide spectrum of other topics. Visitors had the chance to learn about cooling waters in the Gulf of Maine, how to center indigenous culture in high school science classes, public transportation in Mexico City, and the diversity of birds on the UMass Boston campus.

For the first time, the symposium was accompanied by an activities fair organized by the Office of Campus Planning & Sustainability, where 16 booths showcased environmental initiatives.



Students and faculty present their research at the 2026 Earth Day Symposium.

Increase Endowment

New Fund Expands Student Research on Boston Harbor Islands

In April, the volunteer-led nonprofit organization Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands (FBHI) established the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands Endowed Fund in Honor of Suzanne Gall Marsh '84, a \$25,000 endowment to support student research at the School for the Environment. The fund will expand research opportunities at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, with a preference for projects that explore, protect, or educate others about the Boston Harbor Islands and climate resilience.

The fund honors alumna Suzanne Gall Marsh '84, a founding member of FBHI whose connection to the Harbor Islands began with a transformative first visit in 1978. Marsh's ties to UMass Boston span decades, from her bachelor's degree in community and public service to her role as both a member and facilitator with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, where she taught courses on the harbor islands and regional national parks. She also played a key role in preserving FBHI's records in the University Archives.

By supporting research opportunities for students in the School for the Environment, the fund strengthens UMass Boston's role as a leader in coastal research and climate resilience.

Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service



Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco speaks at the West Africa Resilience Summit.

Chancellor Co-Organizes West Africa Resilience Summit in Senegal

In March, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco co-organized the seventh in a series of regional summits in support of the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences' Global Initiative, *From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience*. The West Africa Resilience Summit, *Pathways for West Africa and the Sahelian Region at Local and Regional Levels*, was held in Dakar, Senegal.

The summit convened more than 100 participants representing 11 African nations—Senegal, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Niger, Benin, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria, and Mali—bringing together mayors, governors, scientists, academics, and advocates from across the region for discussions on how to strengthen climate resilience in local communities.

The summit series—the most comprehensive climate resilience initiative in the world to date—has positioned UMass Boston as a global leader in promoting the MAST Three-Pillar Resilience Framework strategy: mitigation measures to diminish climate risks, adaptation planning to manage risks, and societal transformation to reinforce mitigation and adaptation. Regional summits previously held in Brazil, Austria, Kenya, Massachusetts and California in the U.S., and the Vatican during the past year have produced a windfall of mitigation, adaptation, and social transformation strategies—in addition to local knowledge-sharing and nature-based solutions—that can be replicated or approximated around the world.

Key outcomes included localized climate resilience protocols supported by improved data and the development of investable, bankable plans prioritizing nature-based solutions and resilient infrastructure. Participants also advanced science-guided policy dialogue and committed to strengthening local capacity to support long-term adaptation, particularly in vulnerable communities.

The remaining regional summits, to be convened in India and the Philippines and again at the Vatican in 2027, will consider the development of region-specific blueprints for building resilience and continue to explore ways of implementing the solutions outlined in the 2024 *Planetary Protocol for Climate Change Resilience* issued by Pope Francis.

Chancellor Joins State Leaders, President at Vatican Climate Workshop

Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco in May joined UMass President Marty Meehan, Massachusetts House Majority Leader Michael Moran, and House Ways & Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz at the Vatican to participate in the “Building Climate Resilience Legislation” workshop sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

The workshop convened experienced legislators, emerging political leaders, policy experts, and judges to share examples of how climate resilience laws have been successfully passed and implemented across jurisdictions. The workshop's goal was to learn from successful efforts that have gone beyond theory and into effective political and legislative action.

As with previous workshops and summits at the Vatican, Chancellor Suárez-Orozco has played a leading role in organizing the convenings. At this workshop, he provided welcoming remarks (“Setting the Stage: MAST Framework & Regional Summits”) and closing remarks (“The Way Forward”), as well as serving as the master of ceremonies during the workshop.

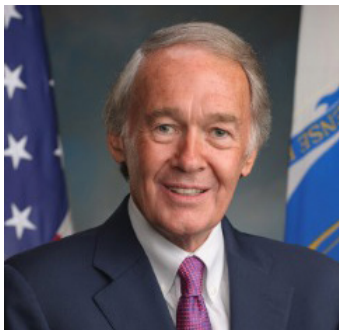
As part of a global series of regional climate summits, this one-day workshop focused on the practical realities of drafting, passing, and implementing climate resilience legislation. It will serve as a strategic bridge between local legislative success stories and the global dialogue culminating at the final convening at the Vatican.

The chancellor's attendance at this and other related convenings are fully funded by foundational support.



Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco speaks at the workshop alongside former mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo and Argentine world governance expert Gustavo Beliz.

Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace



Senator Edward Markey



Anne Hidalgo

Senator Edward Markey, Former Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo to Speak at 2026 UMass Boston Commencement

U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey will deliver the keynote address at UMass Boston's 58th undergraduate commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 28, on the Campus Center Lawn overlooking Dorchester Bay. The Honorable Anne Hidalgo, former mayor of Paris and a global leader in climate action and urban innovation, will deliver the keynote address at the graduate commencement ceremony on Wednesday, May 27.

Elected to the United States Senate in 2013, Markey previously served 37 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. In the course of his political career, Senator Markey has amassed an unparalleled record of consumer protection, clean energy, and environmental legislation and a deep commitment to improving the lives of the people of Massachusetts and our country.

Hidalgo served as mayor of Paris, France from 2014 to 2026, becoming the first woman to hold the office. During her tenure, she led transformative efforts to reduce car traffic, expand green space, and position Paris as a global model for climate-forward urban policy. Her leadership on sustainability, public health, and equitable city planning has earned international recognition.

"We are honored to welcome Senator Markey and Mayor Hidalgo to address our Class of 2026," said Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco. "Both leaders have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public service and to tackling the defining challenges of our time—from climate change to economic opportunity—making them powerful voices for our graduates as they embark on the next chapter of their lives."

Charles John Hoff, Professor Martha Minow, and Gina McCarthy '76 will receive honorary degrees at the Doctoral Hooding and Honorary Degree Ceremony on May 27. Degrees will be conferred to approximately 3,900 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students in the Class of 2026.

Garceau Shatters National Records at NCAA Indoor Championships

Aryianna Garceau delivered a performance for the record books at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships, capturing her third career national title in the 60-meter hurdles with a blazing 8.25 seconds and rewriting the national record in a showcase of elite hurdling. Later in the day, Garceau went on to finish seventh in the 200-meter dash, clocking 24.78 and adding another All-American performance to her decorated resume.

Garceau's has now run 4 out of the top 5 times ever run in a Division III 60-meter hurdle race. Her time of 24.44 in the 200 meters ran in the preliminaries placed her among the nation's elite sprinters for the 2025–26 indoor season.

To add to her resume, Garceau broke her own national record in the 100-meter hurdles in March 2026 by running 13.40 (her previous record was 13.53).

With her latest triumphs, Garceau now owns five All-American honors (2024 outdoor, 2024–25 indoor, 2025 outdoor, 2025–26 indoor) and three national championships (2025 and 2026 indoor 60-meter hurdles and the 2025 outdoor 100-meter hurdles). She also holds both the NCAA Division III indoor 60-meter hurdles championship meet and national records (8.25) and outdoor 100-meter hurdles championship meet (13.53) and national records (13.40) setting a new standard for UMass Boston and Division III hurdlers nationwide. With her 60-meter hurdle time, Garceau officially becomes the fastest 60-meter hurdler in New England across all divisions for the 2025–2026 season.



Aryianna Garceau

Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace (cont.)

U.S. News: UMass Boston's Graduate Programs Among Nation's Best in 2026

UMass Boston's graduate programs in education, nursing, rehabilitation counseling, clinical psychology, and public affairs are ranked as top 100 programs on *U.S. News & World Report's* 2026 Best Graduate Schools list, released this month.

Designed for prospective students looking to further their education beyond college, the Best Graduate Schools rankings evaluate programs in a variety of disciplines.

Seven UMass Boston programs have new top 100 rankings:

- Graduate programs in education – No. 47
- Master's programs in public affairs – No. 64
- Master of Nursing – No. 78
- Doctor of Nursing Practice – No. 89
- Rehabilitation Counseling – No. 15
- Clinical Psychology – No. 53
- Part-time MBA program – No. 98



Abiola Farinde-Wu

UMass Boston Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Schuman Named 2026 NACDA Athletic Director of the Year

Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics Jacqueline Schuman has been selected as a 2026 National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Athletic Director of the Year Award recipient.

The award spans 7 divisions (NCAA FBS, FCS, Division I-AAA, II, III, NAIA/Other Four-Year Institutions, and Junior College/Community Colleges).

Criteria for the award include service as an AD for a minimum of five academic years; demonstration of commitment to higher education and student-athletes; continuous teamwork, loyalty, and excellence; and the ability to inspire individuals or groups to high levels of accomplishments.

Schuman is among four Division III athletic directors honored for this and the only female Division III athletic director.

"I am humbled and honored to receive this prestigious award from NACDA, an organization that I grew up in and learned from at an early point in my career in college sports," Schuman said. "For me, this award speaks to the importance of exercising resilience through challenges in leadership and the path to leadership by having the courage to always keep core values at the forefront of decision-making. It also speaks to the importance of focusing on efforts to support the ways that student-athletes, coaches, and those we lead reach their greatest potential and how important the relationships and team around us are to help us achieve these goals."

Renew the Faculty

CEHD Professor Receives National Award for Research on Equity and Social Justice in Teacher Education

UMass Boston Associate Professor of Urban Education and Department Chair of Leadership in Education Abiola Farinde-Wu has received Division K's 2026 Innovations in Research on Equity and Social Justice in Teaching and Teacher Education Awards for her work in advancing understanding of equity and social justice in teacher education.

"I felt immense gratitude and humility," Farinde-Wu said. "To be recognized for work that centers people of color and our most vulnerable populations gives me hope and inspiration for the path ahead. This is my life's work. This is my heartwork."

The award is given out once a year to an individual or small collaborative group whose expanded vision of frameworks, methodologies, models, and practices in teaching and/or teacher education demonstrates innovation in equity and social justice.

The award committee cited Farinde-Wu's sustained and theoretically rich body of work addressing issues of inclusion, equity, and social justice in teacher education, including pioneering research in Black women teacher retention. Farinde-Wu has been engaging in research, teaching, and service with UMass Boston since 2017. Her work explores the experience of Black women teachers, including conceptualization of a fugitive professional development, a Black feminist trauma-informed praxis, and advancement of postmodern blackness.

Improve Delivery of Administration and IT Services

University Conducts Emergency Preparedness Exercise: Training Included Half-Dozen Agencies, More Than 200 Students, Faculty, and Staff

On March 24, UMass Boston conducted a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise in the Clark Athletic Center comprised of active-shooter simulations for emergency personnel response and university community awareness.

Since 2012, the university has conducted several full-scale active threat preparedness exercises for police officers and other first responders to practice active threat response procedures in a university setting, while providing students, faculty, and staff with the opportunity to participate in an important emergency preparedness activity.

“The safety of our university community is our priority,” said Kathleen Kirleis, vice chancellor for administration and finance. “These exercises are an important part of our focus on readiness and response to emergency situations.”

This year’s exercise was the largest and most comprehensive, including UMass Boston, City of Boston, Massachusetts State, and MBTA Transit police, as well as Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Boston Fire Department. It also included approximately 250 students, faculty, and staff who role-played in each scenario, exercise evaluators, and observers. The exercise created a significant public safety presence around Clark, with a State Police mobile command center and vehicles from all the participating agencies.

The three scenarios conducted in the gymnasium and hockey rink included simulated sporting events, with student-athletes playing hockey or basketball and audience members in the bleachers. An actor in the role of shooter fired blanks to simulate a shooting, causing the actors to flee, take cover, or fake injury. UMass Boston Police responded and secured the area for emergency response personnel to treat and remove the wounded. No live firearms or ammunition were involved in the simulations, and the wounds were created with face makeup and red dye on clothing.

“This full-scale emergency preparedness exercise was incredibly successful because of the many members of our campus community who participated and the involvement of area first-responder agencies,” said Justin Comeau, director of emergency management.



Approximately 250 students, faculty, and staff participated.

Karyn Plumm Named Vice Provost for Student Equity, Access, and Success

Karyn Plumm, PhD, has been appointed vice provost for student equity, access, and success (SEAS). She brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education and an exemplary record of leadership in student success, academic planning, and curricular innovation.

An accomplished academic leader, Plumm is currently serving as vice provost for undergraduate studies and student success at the University of North Dakota, where she has overseen a large and dynamic unit focused on student support and achievement. In this role, she has played a key part in unifying student success initiatives that have contributed to student success, including increased enrollment and retention. Plumm previously served as associate dean for student success in the College of Arts & Sciences, where she was recognized for her contributions to improving academic advising and her work on the university-wide strategic plan.

Plumm earned her PhD in Experimental Psychology, with a research focus on social psychology and the law, from the University of North Dakota.

Enhance the Learning Experience

UMass Boston Theatre Crushes It at American College Theatre Festival

Once again, UMass Boston Theatre Arts students returned from Region I of the American College Theatre Festival with an armload of awards in acting, design, technology, and management.

Hosted this year by Siena University in Albany, the annual festival gathers nominated theatre arts students from throughout the Northeast. Formerly known as the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, the organization suspended its relationship with the Kennedy Center last fall, seeking new opportunities for a national gathering for next year.

In all, 13 UMass Boston students attended, each nominated for their work in the past year's productions, *Peter and the Starcatcher* in Spring '25 and *Natashya, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* last fall. Five of them came home with significant recognition. Nominees are chosen after a response from a faculty member from another member college and recognize work on and off stage.

Actors Sam Stanley and Hannah Rolston won the Irene Ryan Scholarship Competition for "Outstanding Work on a Comedic Piece." Stanley was a finalist (final 15) for the coveted Irene Ryan Award and was nominated for her portrayal of Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Rolston was a semi-finalist for the Irene Ryan and was nominated for portraying Bolkonsky in *The Great Comet*. Jaylse Ware, nominated for playing Mrs. Bumbrake in *Starcatcher*, was a semi-finalist in the Musical Theatre Auditions, the first UMass Boston student to go so far in over a decade.

Deleyah Creese was recognized with two Design, Technology and Management awards, the "Eye of the Storm Award" and the "BOLD Bridge Award" for costume and sound design. Marge Rosas won the "Tempest Award for Scenic Design" in Design, Technology and Management.

Undergraduate Interns Gain Valuable Skills Working at Pension Action Center

Since 2020, the Pension Action Center (PAC) has hired UMass Boston undergraduate students as interns through the generosity of an endowment established by John and Patricia Kimpel. PAC is part of the Gerontology Institute at UMass Boston, which helps people understand their rights under pension law and to claim the benefits they've earned. This internship program is mutually beneficial: PAC benefits from the support of students—several of whom have gone onto law school—while students receive valuable experience.



(From left) Award winners Sam Stanley, Marge Rosas, Hannah Rolston, and Deleyah Creese.

This year, two students—Kristol Callender and Nicco Hayashi—earned positions as Kimpel Scholars. These interns work on the PAC helpline, welcoming and triaging callers who are in need of PAC's services.

Callender and Hayashi collect information from people who seek lost benefits. PAC then connects them with the people who will handle their case—all without charge. By the time many of these callers contact PAC, they've already tried many times to retrieve their pension benefits through other avenues without success.

"It's really opened my eyes to how impactful it is for people who are dealing with finding lost pensions and seeking survivor benefits—how stressful it is and how much pressure it places on people's lives," Hayashi said. "People rely on this as a source of income, and it's alarming when it's in jeopardy."

International Law and Cybersecurity Take Center Stage

As cyber threats continue to escalate worldwide, students, faculty, and community members gathered at UMass Boston on April 13 for a timely discussion on whether international law can keep pace with an increasingly complex digital landscape.

The program, *The Future of International Law and Cybersecurity*, was presented through a partnership between WorldBoston and UMass Boston Office of Global Programs as part of WorldBoston's *Great Decisions* program series. Held at the Campus Center with a virtual attendance option, the free, public event drew participants interested in global security, law, and emerging cyber risks.

Eric Talbot Jensen, a leading expert in international law and cybersecurity, delivered the keynote presentation, examining topics ranging from state-sponsored cyber operations to ransomware attacks targeting critical infrastructure. Romilla Syed, a faculty member at UMass Boston, moderated the event.

Enhance the Learning Experience (cont.)



Paul Tucker with Mark di Suvero's Huru circa 1997.

Arts on the Point: Celebrating 30 Years of Public Art at UMass Boston

This spring, the University Hall Gallery opened *Arts on the Point: Celebrating 30 Years*, an exhibition honoring three decades of public sculpture on UMass Boston's campus. On view through April, the exhibition revisited the ambitious curatorial vision that transformed the waterfront into a sculpture park and positioned UMass Boston as a key site for public art in the city.

Founded in 1997 by Professor Emeritus Paul Hayes Tucker, *Arts on the Point* was built on a simple but powerful belief: that a public university should be home to public art. Over the late 1990s and early 2000s, Tucker raised more than \$1 million to bring major 20th- and 21st-century artists to campus, including Alexander Calder, Mark di Suvero, Sol LeWitt, Roy Lichtenstein, Dennis Oppenheim, Sheila Pepe, Tony Smith, and Clara Wainwright.

"Paul was guided by his conviction that a public university deserves public art," said Gallery Director Sam Toabe, who has led the program since 2017. "He was really trying to bring some of the best work of modern, postmodern, and contemporary art to UMass Boston to help educate our students, beautify the campus, and attract visitors from around the region."

The anniversary exhibition brings that history indoors with smaller-scale works by participating artists, along with archival photographs, sketches, and materials drawn from Tucker's papers in the Healey Library Archives and Special Collections.

Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service (cont.)

UMass Boston Partners with TeamSmile to Provide Free Dental Care for Local Youth

In March, UMass Boston hosted a TeamSmile event that transformed the Clark Athletic Center into far more than an intimidating dental clinic; it became a vibrant, welcoming expression of the university's commitment to community health.

TeamSmile, a national nonprofit dedicated to improving children's oral health, partners with dental professionals and athletic organizations to provide free dental care and education to underserved youth in a fun, engaging environment. Through this model, children receive preventive and restorative services in a setting designed to make oral health more accessible and approachable.

At UMass Boston, 140 children from Title I Boston Public Schools were served by nearly 100 volunteers—including dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and community members—who donated their time and expertise to support the event. Each child received dental services, oral health education, a TeamSmile T-shirt, and a Colgate kit to take home, reinforcing healthy habits long after the day ended.

The event also supported the Beacon Wellness Initiative's "Oral Health Is..." campaign in recognition of World Oral Health Day, highlighting the role of oral health in overall well-being. As a health-promoting institution, UMass Boston continues to support initiatives that expand access to care, address health disparities, and create meaningful, community-centered experiences.



Student-athletes volunteer at the TeamSmile event.