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Success Boston: College Completion Initiative

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Summary of Success Boston

2008: Initiative launches in response to Northeastern University study finding – only 35.5% of Boston Public School (BPS) graduates enrolled in college earned an Associate's or Bachelor's degree within 7 years (despite BPS having one of the highest college enrollment rates in country).

2010: 38 colleges/universities in MA accepted UMass Boston Chancellor Keith Motley's invitation to join the initiative (25 submitted specific plans). Chancellor Motley is co-chair of Mayor's Success Boston Task Force.

July 2010: UMass Boston implements Success Boston Embedded Model: Collaboration with American Student Assistance (ASA), Freedom House Inc., Bottom Line and Hyde Square Task Force to provide transitional coaching to BPS graduates at UMass Boston.

Goals and Objectives

- To increase the percentage of Boston Public School graduates who successfully complete college graduation requirements.

City-wide Goals:

- 2009 Cohort Goal: 52%
- 2011 Cohort Goal: 70%

UMass Boston Goals:

- 2011 Cohort Goal: 56.7%



Elwin Castillo, anticipated graduation 2014



Chancellor Motley at 2012 Welcome Reception with Fall 2012 entering BPS graduates



2012 Welcome Reception: SB Coaches Alexa Hatzopoulos & Joel Mora with SB participants Mohamed Mohamed & Aura Ortiz

Results/Impacts

UMass Boston's data continues to show progress

- **Second Year Retention** of Fall 2011 First-time Full-Time Freshmen (*BPS graduates were significantly more likely to return than others*):
84.7% BPS compared to 77.8% non-BPS
- Success Boston participants **on track to graduate in six years** (*had earned at least a 2.5 GPA and 24 credits by the end of their first year*):

2008 Cohort: 26%
2009 Cohort: 36%
2010 Cohort: 41%
2011 Cohort: 42%



Vice Provost Joan Becker, Provost Langley, and students receiving certificate for academic achievement

Approaches and Methods

Core Strategies of UMass Boston's Model:

- Based on best practices research
- Intrusive/transition coaching
- Personalized case management
- Targeted activities to connect, engage and start and keep students on track toward graduation

Coaches:

- Reach out at key times (semester's beginning/end) & before deadlines (add/drop, withdrawal; preregistration)
- Support students with academic/non-academic needs

Peer Mentors:

- Assigned to entering freshmen as models to show how they handled similar experiences/challenges.

Special Activities to Support Transition:

- 2-day Transition to College Symposium
- Welcome reception & End of year celebration
- FAFSA renewal party

Conclusion/Next Steps

- Implement an initiative to ensure BPS students entering the university have completed financial aid process and necessary documentation to be on track financially.
- Continue to review and introduce best practices based on the needs of participants in Success Boston to keep them on track towards their ultimate goal – a college degree.

Partners

Partners

Mayor's Office, City of Boston
Boston Public Schools
The Boston Foundation
37 Massachusetts Colleges and Universities

Mayor Menino with SB Participants Arthur Matthew and Etchler Joseph



ASA, Freedom House, Bottom Line and Hyde Square Coaches with UMass Boston Students.

Transition Support Partners

American Student Assistant (ASA)
Boston Private Industry Council
Bottom Line
Freedom House
Hyde Square Task Force
uAspire

Supporters

- UMass Boston
 - The Boston Foundation*
 - The Ford Foundation*
 - The Boston Opportunity Agenda*
- * Supporters of City-wide Initiative

Contact Information

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