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Project REACH Talent Search at UMass Boston

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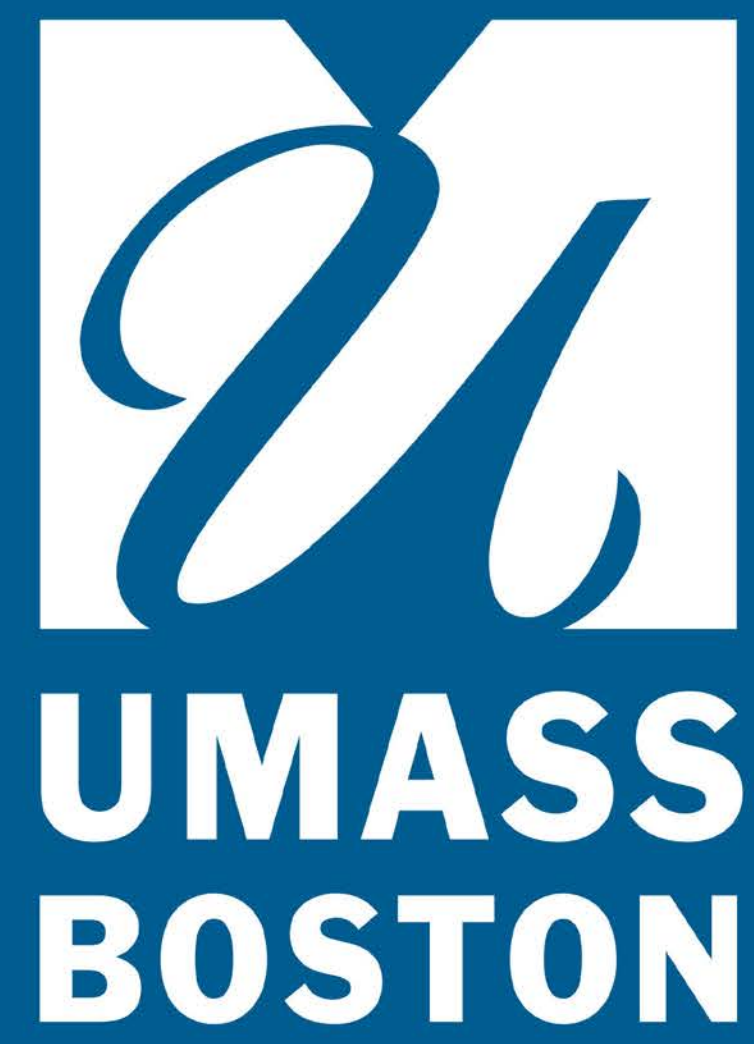
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Project REACH Talent Search at UMass Boston

Partners: University of Massachusetts Boston, Jeremiah E. Burke High School, Dorchester Academy, Madison Park High School, Dearborn Middle School and McCormack Middle School

Summary/Abstract

Project REACH (Realizing Educational And Career Hopes)



Mission Statement

REACH identifies and serves disadvantaged young people who have the potential for education at the post-secondary level and encourages them to continue and graduate from secondary school and enroll in programs of post-secondary education. High school and post-secondary dropouts are also encouraged and assisted in returning to school.

History

Project REACH was first funded by the U.S. Department of Education in September 1985 and at the time became the first Educational Talent Search Program in the nation to serve low-income, first generation college bound, urban youth with disabilities. Today, REACH remains a national model for successful inclusion of youth with disabilities in TRIO programs. The program currently serves students who are in General Education and Special Education classes.

Goals and Objectives

- Assist participants in persisting in and completing secondary education.
- Support participants in the completion of a rigorous high school program of study.
- Encourage persons who have not completed programs of study at the secondary level to re-enter them.
- Inform individuals with disabilities of the existing community resources.
- Support program participants in the enrollment in and completion of programs of post-secondary education.

Approaches and Methods

- Career and educational counseling.
- Self-esteem building and self-advocacy skills.
- College fairs and visits.
- Assistance in completing college applications and financial aid forms.
- Disability awareness and counseling.
- Tutoring (in school and after school).
- Information and referrals to community resources.

Results/Impacts

Since 1985, REACH has worked with thousands of Boston Public School students at its partner schools and has assisted many Boston Public Schools (BPS) graduates to realize their dreams of going to college.

In School Year 2011-2012

- 825 students received program services.
- Over 150 visited a college campus or went to a college fair.
- 150 seniors graduated with a high school diploma.
- Over 80 seniors enrolled at post-secondary institutions; including UMass Boston.

Additional Information / Contacts

To enhance the program and services provided, REACH collaborates with other UMass Boston Pre-collegiate programs and university departments, as well as community-based organizations.

Project REACH is a federally funded program. To learn more about the program, contact the Project REACH office at UMass Boston by sending an email to projectreach@umb.edu or by calling 617.287.7390.