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Project REACH Talent Search at UMass Boston

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Vision
Every student, whether low-income, first-generation, with a disability, or at high risk for academic failure, will develop the skills, knowledge, and motivation to successfully enroll in and complete postsecondary education.

Mission
We identify disadvantaged middle and high school students in the Boston Public Schools (BPS) who have the potential for education at the post-secondary level, we support those students as they complete a rigorous high school program of study, and we encourage them to enroll in programs of post-secondary education.

Contact Information
Project REACH is a federally funded program. To learn more about the program, email projectreach@umb.edu or call 617.287.7390.

Goals and Objectives
✓ Prepare students academically and socially for enrollment in and completion of higher 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
✓ Serves students in both general education and special education classes.
✓ Career and educational counseling
✓ Self-esteem building and self-advocacy skills
✓ College fairs and visits
✓ Help completing college applications and financial aid forms
✓ Disability awareness and counseling
✓ Tutoring (in school and after school)
✓ Information and referrals to community resources
✓ 5-week summer program combining academic coursework with project-based learning and community engagement activities

Impact
✓ First Educational Talent Search Program in the nation to serve low-income, first generation, college-bound, urban youth with disabilities
✓ A national model for successful inclusion of youth with disabilities in TRIO programs
✓ Worked with thousands of Boston Public School students at its partner schools since 1985
✓ Helped many BPS graduates realize their dreams of going to college or pursuing postsecondary training

In School Year 2012-2013:
✓ Served 825 students
✓ Over 150 visited a college campus or went to a college fair
✓ Over 90% of seniors graduated with a high school diploma

2013 Summer Program:
Theme was “Culture: Embracing Differences;” 28 students from our target schools took part