Success Boston: College Completion Initiative

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**Success Boston** provides intensive coaching support and wraparound services to Boston Public Schools students and graduates to ensure they are *Getting Ready, Getting In, and Getting Through* college so they are equipped to lead productive lives after graduation.

**Our Impact**
UMass Boston’s data continues to show progress of Success Boston participants.

**Persistence and Completion for BPS Graduates Enrolled at UMass Boston**

- **Graduated by 2014**
- **Applied for 2015 Graduation**
- **Still Enrolled**

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Demographics of 2014 BPS Graduates Enrolled at UMass Boston

- Males: 42%
- Females: 58%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0%
- Asian: 22%
- Black/African: 30%
- Cape Verdean: 0%
- Hispanic/Latino: 32%
- Non-Resident Alien: 2%
- Two or more races: 3%
- White: 9%
- Non-Specified: 2%
- Not Specified: 2%
- Two or more races: 3%
- Asian: 22%
- Black/African: 30%
Success Boston
College Completion Initiative

Goal: Advance student success and development through comprehensive support.

Objectives:
- **On-Track**: Increase % of participants on-track to graduate within 6 years
- **Employment**: Assist students with securing college sensitive jobs
- **Financial Aid**: Provide support mechanisms for managing process
- **On-time Registration**: Boost on-time class registrations
- **Re-enrollment**: Increase number of participants retained each fall
- **Innovate**: Align data-informed needs of participants with best practices to enhance services

Activities
- Individualized academic coaching that supports transition into and through college
- Support for problem solving both academic and non-academic challenges
- Targeted programming to address trends and help students complete critical tasks
- Special events focused on building community and celebrating success
- Connecting students to university resources

Partners

**Network Partners:**
- Mayor’s Office, City of Boston
- Boston Public Schools
- The Boston Foundation
- UMass Boston
- 37 Massachusetts colleges/universities

**Transition Support and Implementation Partners:**
- American Student Assistance (ASA)
- Boston Private Industry Council
- Bottom Line
- Freedom House
- Hyde Square Task Force
- uAspire Boston

**Support Partners:**
- The Ford Foundation
- The Boston Foundation
- The Boston Opportunity Agenda
- Supporters of City-wide Initiative

Success Boston student, Ravie (center), was connected to the Office of Career Services and Internships which supported him with applying to CVP Career Academy, a premier internship opportunity offered by a coalition of New England’s leading real estate, engineering, and hospitality firms.
Yen’s Story

Yen came to Boston from Vietnam as a young child. As a high school student, she describes herself as “shy, self-conscious, and struggling academically.” She made it into UMass Boston through the Transitions Program which helped her adjust and become better prepared for college. Yen then took advantage of Success Boston’s opportunities which regularly informed her about scholarships, job and co-curricular opportunities, and financial aid deadlines. Success Boston connected her to various university opportunities. Yen earned a spot in a two-year cancer research program called CURE, participated in a “life-changing” service-learning trip to Puerto Rico, is a member of student government, and is utilizing her fluency in Vietnamese to lead health disparities research in her own community. When you meet Yen today, you find an ambitious, confident young woman, and a star student.

Manny’s Story

Manny attributes Success Boston as the key factor in preventing him from dropping out – not once but twice. After a family tragedy, Manny recalled, “As I am thinking about dropping out of school, one of my coaches call[ed] me. I just needed to be reassured by someone else who cared about me, and I got that.” Struggling to balance school and a full-time job, Success Boston also connected him to an on-campus job, leading him to forge new friendships, study more, gain career-related experience, and become a student leader. Manny founded AMEND, a men’s group that provides a safe place to discuss issues of identity, relationships, success, violence, and a host of other topics.

Yen and Manny are both on-track to graduate!