



REACH HIGHER

Complete your education. Own your future.

Reaching Higher in Massachusetts: Exploring Post-Secondary Transition, Persistence and Retention

August 9th, 2017

Framingham State University

McCarthy Campus Center

8 am – 3:30 pm



A Note from the RHM Team Lead

Dear Participant-

Welcome to the 2017 Reach Higher Massachusetts Convening. I am so excited that you are here to participate in this awesome event to help further our mission which enables more students to graduate from high school and go on to enter and complete further education beyond high school.

In October, Reach Higher Massachusetts (RHM) will celebrate its third anniversary. I am absolutely thrilled with what we have been able to accomplish in just three short years, considering we are a completely volunteer organization with zero budget. More importantly, I am excited about where RHM is headed. Many thanks to the members of the Leadership Team, our Work Group Co-Chairs and the hundreds of people who have attended our events and are on our mailing list, supporting our mission and work.

A huge thank you to Christine Luzi for coordinating this program. She singlehandedly coordinated this entire program in just a few short months and for that we are all grateful. I also want to thank Framingham State University for hosting this event and making it possible for the event to be free, continuing our tradition of eliminating barriers to this work. I also want to thank the Massachusetts School Counselors Association, Massachusetts Bay Community College and Susan Whalley for their sponsorship support.

I expect your day will be filled with numerous opportunities for learning, networking and action. I hope you leave today's Convening inspired to do at least one new thing to help students to "Reach Higher" and pursue some sort of training or education after high school graduation. Make a pledge, which in turn will positively impact our youth today, tomorrow and beyond. Your involvement will make a difference.

Sincerely,
Bob Bardwell
RHM Team Lead

Meet the RHM Leadership Team

Bob Bardwell, Monson Public Schools
Mark Bilotta, MA EDCO
Ruth Carrigan, Whitman Hanson High School
Nyal Fuentes, Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education
Christine Luzi, Stoughton Public Schools
Jackney Prioly Joseph, Future Ready Massachusetts
Tim Poynton, UMASS Boston
V. Scott Solberg, Boston University



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**Reach Higher Massachusetts Convening
Framingham State University, Framingham MA
August 9, 2017
McCarthy Campus Center
8:00 AM – 3:30 PM**

Reaching Higher in Massachusetts: Exploring Post-Secondary Transition, Persistence and Retention

- 8:00 - 8:30** Registration and continental breakfast – *The Forum, McCarthy Campus Center*
- 8:30 – 9:15** Welcome and Introductory Remarks – *The Annex, McCarthy Campus Center*
Bob Bardwell, Monson High School, Reach Higher MA Team Leader
Julie Heinz, Reach Higher – Better Make Room
Dr. Lorreta Holloway, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Development, FSU
Jim Vetter, Social Emotional Learning Alliance for Massachusetts
Dr. Lane Glenn, President, Northern Essex Community College
- 9:15 – 9:45** Keynote Speaker – *The Annex, McCarthy Campus Center*
James Peyser, Secretary of Education, MA Executive Office of Education
- 9:45 – 9:55** Break
- 10:00 – 10:50** How to Support Students Reaching Higher Concurrent Session I:
 - Leveraging the Community College & Four-Year College Partnerships
 - Capitalizing on Academic Support to Reach Higher
 - Early College HS Partnerships
 - Making Way: Eliminating Barriers from Middle School to College
 - Building Financial Literacy One Massachusetts School District at a Time
 - Empower and Educate Students Through a Credit for Life Fair
- 11:00 – 11:50** How to Support Students Reaching Higher Concurrent Sessions II:
Repeat of sessions from Concurrent I
- 12:00 – 1:15** Lunch – McCarthy Center Dining Hall/Annex
❖ Luncheon Remarks:
 - Dr. Carlos Santiago, Commissioner of Higher Education, Massachusetts
- 1:30 – 2:30** Afternoon Sessions
 - Beyond Access: Supporting First-Generation, Low-Income Students to College Completion
 - Social and Emotional Learning: Paving the Path to College and Career
- 2:30 – 2:45** Break
- 2:45 – 3:30** Closing - Sharing challenges, report out, commitments and next steps



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Concurrent Session Descriptions:

Session 1:

Leveraging the Community College & Four-Year College Partnership

Learn from three Massachusetts Public Colleges how they have turned their partnership into a pipeline strategy and true collaboration. Framingham State, Mass Bay and Northern Essex Community College will share experiences and advice on how to create new partnerships or make stronger ones that can result in more students in both enrollment funnels.

Presenters: Shayna Eddy, Associate Dean and Dean of Undergraduate Admission, Framingham State University
Daniel Richer, Dean of Admission, Northern Essex Community College
Lisa Slavin, AVP of Enrollment, Massachusetts Bay Community College

Session 2:

Capitalizing on Academic Support to Reach Higher

Tutoring is often associated with increased student success, but what is really known about the impact? This presentation will explore student success through relevant literature supported by current data from a Massachusetts community college. Participants will discuss strategies to encourage student engagement and explore the impact of academic support on persistence and retention.

Presenter: C. Chad Argotsinger, Director of Tutoring and Academic Support at Bristol Community College

Session 3:

Early College HS Partnerships

While a primary goal of Marlborough Public Schools is to have ALL student's become college or career ready, we are mindful of our diverse and changing student demographic. MPS has explored multiple avenues by which students can navigate college/career pathways. Learn how we are chartering a variety of courses that provide students to rich opportunities such as exposure to college campuses, real world employment via Marlborough corporate internships as well as early college high school dual enrollment and associate degree programming.

Presenters: Dan Riley, Director STEM Early College High School, Marlborough High School

Session 4:

Making Way: Eliminating Barriers from Middle School to College

The MetroWest College Planning Center has eliminated barriers while piloting, testing and implementing progressive programming to guide youth and families through pathways to higher education. A panel of community partners, youth near peers, inclusive advisors and program coordinators will lead a discussion in developing best practices by identifying gaps and barriers. Attendees will leave session with three takeaways they will be able to implement in the Fall with their communities.

Presenters: Colleen Coffey, Director of College Access and Community Engagement
Steven Lamisere, Coordinator of Community Outreach
Erika Reyes, Senior Advisor of High School Inclusive Advising
Erica Peterson, Learning Curriculum Specialist
Uyen Hong, Program Coordinator out of school time

Concurrent Sessions (Cont.)

Session 5:

Building Financial Literacy One Massachusetts School District at a Time

One all-too-common barrier to students successfully transitioning / completing a postsecondary education is a lack of financial literacy. Today, it's no longer enough to just explore good academic fits; a postsecondary education choice must also be a sound financial fit.

In this session, we'll discuss the role that local school committees have played or could play in advancing financial literacy. We'll also discuss initiatives from Treasurer Deb Goldberg's office, including its launch of their new financial education website, MyFinancialLifeMA.org, with designated topics targeting high school students. In addition, we'll leave time for session participants to share their thoughts with what's happening or could happen within their own schools.

Presenters: Mark Bilotta, Director, MA EDCO
Beverly Hugo, President-Elect, Massachusetts School Committee Association
Alayna Van Tassel, Deputy Treasurer, Commonwealth of MA

Session 6:

Empower and Educate Students Through a Credit for Life Fair

Thanks to a Financial Innovation Fund Grant through MA State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg's office, and the support of the local banking and business community, Nipmuc Regional HS held its first Financial Wellness Fair this spring with the goal of helping students understand how the decisions they make daily have a real impact on their ability to attain their future goals. Student engagement was at an all-time high during this meaningful reality experience. This workshop will walk attendees through the process from application through implementation. Resources shared freely. Come to this session to learn the strategies you can take today to hold the same meaningful, engaging and empowering experience in your community!

Presenter: Elizabeth Hennessey, Career and Community Coordinator, Nipmuc Regional HS

Luncheon Remarks

Higher Ed in Massachusetts: Preparing Students for a Changing Landscape

College costs have increased 400% in the last three decades, while median family incomes have remained flat. In the last five years, enrollments at many colleges have slipped, while some smaller colleges have closed their doors.

Massachusetts Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago explains the economic and cultural trends in higher education that will alter the post-secondary experience for many students now in high school.

Plan on 10-15 minutes of remarks, followed by questions from the floor.

Presenter: Carlos Santiago, Commissioner of Higher Education, Massachusetts

Afternoon Session Descriptions

Session 1:

Social and Emotional Learning: Paving the Path to College and Career

Successful transition, persistence, and retention depends on students having strong, supportive relationships with peers and adults, awareness of self and others, a positive sense of self and their future, and responsible decision-making skills. Social and emotional learning (SEL) provides a proactive, planful approach to helping students develop these key competencies and create environments in which students can thrive. This session will explore key principles of SEL and how they can be effectively integrated across age levels and settings.

Presenters: Jim Vetter, Executive Director, SEL4MA
Rachel Poliner, SEL Consultant and Author

Session 2:

Beyond Access: Supporting First-Generation, Low-Income Students to College Completion

Few studies have addressed the role social class plays in the transition to college for first-generation students from working-class backgrounds. As college is widely considered to be the path to a better life or upward mobility, understanding how social class shapes the academic and social experiences of first-generation students may positively impact college completion rates for this student population.

Presenter: Dr. LaDonna Bridges, Associate Dean of Academic Success and Director of the Center for Academic Success and Achievement, Framingham State University

Meet Our Presenters

Secretary James Peyser

As Secretary of Education, Jim Peyser directs the Executive Office of Education which is responsible for early education, K-12, and higher education in Massachusetts. Secretary Peyser sits on each of the boards governing the Commonwealth's education agencies – Department of Early Education and Care, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and Department of Higher Education as well as the University of Massachusetts system. He is Governor Baker's top advisor on education and helps shape the Commonwealth's education reform agenda. Prior to his appointment as Secretary, he served as the Managing Director at NewSchools Venture Fund, a non-profit grant-making firm that seeks to transform public education in high-need urban communities by supporting innovative education entrepreneurs. From 1999 through 2006, Jim served as Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Education. Prior to joining NewSchools, Secretary Peyser was Education Advisor to Governors Bill Weld, Jane Swift and Mitt Romney, where he helped shape state policy regarding standards and assessments, school accountability, and charter schools. In 1995, he served as Under Secretary of Education and Special Assistant to the Governor Weld for Charter Schools. He previously spent seven years as Executive Director of the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research, where he helped to launch the Massachusetts Charter School Resource Center, which supported the development of the state's first charter schools. Before joining Pioneer Secretary Peyser held various positions at Teradyne, Inc. in Boston, an electronic test equipment manufacturer. Secretary Peyser holds a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School (Tufts University) and a Bachelor of Arts from Colgate University.

Commissioner Carlos Santiago

Carlos E. Santiago is Commissioner of Higher Education for Massachusetts, appointed to this position by Governor Charlie Baker in July 2015. Working with the Board of Higher Education, he is responsible for providing overall direction to public higher education in Massachusetts and helping shape state-level policies that maximize the benefits of higher education to the Commonwealth and its citizens. Santiago joined the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education in April 2013 as the Senior Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs. His past academic appointments include that of Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (Wisconsin's second largest research university). He brings over 30 years of experience in public higher education. Santiago also served as provost and chief operating officer at the University at Albany, (SUNY). He was a professor of economics at UWM and SUNY-Albany and holds a Ph.D. in economics from Cornell University. Santiago is also the author or co-author of six books and has published dozens of articles and book reviews, of which many focus on economic development and the changing socioeconomic status of Latinos in the United States. On two separate occasions, in 1996 and 2011, Santiago has been named one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in the United States by *Hispanic Business* magazine.

President Lane Glenn:

Dr. Glenn is President of Northern Essex Community College (NECC), with campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence, Massachusetts. Dr. Glenn is focused on student success and is passionate about finding ways to help students achieve their educational goals, especially students who are underprepared for college. In addition, he is a strong advocate for colleges and universities as engines of economic and workforce development—particularly in Massachusetts Gateway Cities. Dr. Glenn has been responsible for significant expansion of NECC's Lawrence campus, including the opening of the college's new \$27 million El Hefni Allied Health and Technology Center, NECC Riverwalk, iHealth@NECC, "The Hub," and expansion of partnerships with area high schools and four-year colleges and universities to expand educational opportunities in downtown Lawrence. As part of this effort, Dr. Glenn is the chairman of the board for the newly formed "Lawrence Partnership," a coalition of Lawrence-based businesses and organizations committed to the economic development of the city. In its first two years, the Lawrence Partnership launched a multi-million-dollar venture loan fund for small- and mid-sized businesses in the city; formed a training consortium to improve workforce development; and created a revolving "test kitchen" for aspiring restaurant entrepreneurs.

Meet Our Presenters (Cont.)

Katy Abel

Katy is the Associate Commissioner for External Affairs at the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. She oversees all aspects of the Department's communications work including media relations and strategy, publications, web and social media development and event planning. She also works on many policy issues affecting Massachusetts students and families, including the Commonwealth Commitment affordability initiative, and new efforts to address food and housing insecurity among college students. She reports directly to the Commissioner of Higher Education, Carlos E. Santiago. Katy is a former broadcast journalist who covered education and politics for local and national news outlets, including WBUR-FM, WHDH-TV, and CBS This Morning.

C. Chad Argotsinger

Chad is the Director of Tutoring and Academic Support at Bristol Community College and a doctorate candidate in Educational Leadership at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Mark Bilotta

Mark is Board President and former CEO of Massachusetts Education and Career Opportunities, Inc. (MassEdCO). He is also the author of *Paying for College: Before, During and After (2017 Edition)*.

LaDonna Bridges

LaDonna earned a PhD in Higher Education leadership from the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her scholarship and research focus on first-generation, low-income college students, specifically the impact of social class and working-class culture on the transition to college. She currently serves as the Associate Dean of Academic Success and Director of the Center for Academic Success and Achievement, or CASA, at Framingham State. Dr. Bridges started at FSU in 2005, after transitioning from an earlier career in health care marketing and communications. She holds a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Academic Advising from Kansas State University; a master's in Student Personnel in Higher Education from Springfield College; and a bachelor's in journalism from Northwestern University. She is an active member of the National Academic Advising Association, or NACADA, where she currently sits on the Publications Advisory Board.

Colleen Coffey

Colleen is the Director of College Access and Community Engagement at the MetroWest College Planning Center, which she launched in December of 2014. The College Planning Center is a regional joint college access initiative founded by Framingham State University and MassBay Community College through the Department of Higher Education's Vision Project. Colleen has spent more than twenty-five years working in higher education, workforce development and national and international community development.

Shayna Eddy

Since 2014, Shayna has served as the Associate Dean of Admissions/Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Framingham State University. Before her current role, she served in many roles in admissions including Assistant Dean of Admissions, Associate Director and Assistant Director. As the Associate Dean of Admissions, Shayna oversees the daily operations of the Undergraduate Admissions Office. Shayna is an active member of many organizations within Higher Education. She has served as a member of NEACAC Annual Conference and Meeting and has presented at many annual conferences. With over 16 years of high education experience, Shayna is a proud Ram. She received both her M.A in Public Administration and her B.A. in Sociology from Framingham State University.

Uyen Hong

Uyen is a current MBA student at Framingham State University. Although her professional background is in finance, she loves to work with children and teenagers. She believes that all students deserve a great education as well as support for their future. Before coming to the United States, she volunteered as a tutor for homeless children in Vietnam. Now, she joins the MetroWest College Planning Center as an Out of School Time Coordinator.

Meet Our Presenters (Cont.)

Beverly Hugo

Beverly is an eight-year member of the Framingham School Committee and President-Elect of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

Steven Lamisere

Steven is a graduating senior at Framingham State University in Business Management. He has worked as an access advisor for the MetroWest College Planning Center for a year and has advanced to the community engagement coordinator for the past year. As a first-generation college student from an immigrant family, Steven brings great strategy and insight to his role at the College Planning Center.

Erica Peterson

Erica is the Learning Specialist at the MetroWest College Planning Center, which she joined in 2015. She focuses on program development and curriculum design for mentoring programs and workshops. She also provides academic and professional support and trainings to college interns as they grow and develop at the Center. In addition to working with the youth population of Framingham, Erica has been teaching English as a Second Language to adult immigrants in the Boston area since 2011. She draws from her experiences in both fields to create unique curricula that target skills development for both populations.

Rachel Poliner

Rachel consults widely on whole student approaches and constructive school communities for young people and adults. Her work focuses on K-12 SEL, middle and high school advisory programs, school and faculty climate, with an approach spanning curriculum and staff development, classroom and school-wide structures and practices, district policies, change management, and coaching teacher leaders and administrators. She co-authored The Advisory Guide, and curricula, chapters, and articles on personalization, SEL, resiliency, dialogue, and conflict resolution. Poliner and Jeffrey Benson are authors of Teaching the Whole Teen: Everyday Practices that Promote Success and Resilience in School and Life. Poliner is a member of SEL4MA's Board and Steering Committee. Rachel Poliner can be reached at RachelPoliner@LeadersAndLearners.org.

Erika Reyes

Erika is the Senior Advisor at the MetroWest College Planning Center. The mission of the College Planning Center is to provide the necessary outreach, training, mentoring and advising to connect with youth and non-traditional adult learners in the region and guide them on their desired educational pathway to higher education. Erika utilizes her teaching background to accomplish these goals. Before joining the CPC in 2015, Erika worked at the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center in Providence, Rhode Island as an advisor. She taught ninth grade literacy and current events as well as coordinated her students' internships. Erika's passion for education and universal college access drives her to help others achieve their higher education aspirations.

Daniel Richer

Danny Richer has worked in higher education and undergraduate admission since 2001. He graduated with a B.A. in Political Science and French from Providence College and a M.A. in Organization and Leadership from the University of San Francisco. He worked at Providence College, the University of New Hampshire, and Saint Anselm College prior to his current position as Director of Recruitment and Admission at Northern Essex Community College.

Daniel Riley

Dan Riley is the Director of the Marlborough Public Schools' STEM Early College High School program. He began his career as a mathematics teacher and has served in multiple leadership roles in public education. Mr. Riley has worked on projects under the umbrella of Race to the Top and currently leads the Youth CareerConnect (YCC) program for Marlborough Public Schools. In partnership with Jobs for the Future, Mr. Riley assists in the enhancement of innovative STEM programming that links the interests of partners from K-12, higher education, and industry.

Meet Our Presenters (Cont.)

Lisa Slavin

Since 2015, Lisa Slavin has served as the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management at Massachusetts Bay Community College. Before stepping into her current role, Slavin was the Director of Admissions at MassBay. Early on in her career Slavin joined Wheelock College and held several leadership roles including Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Dean of Enrollment and Financial Aid, Special Assistant to the Vice President of Enrollment and Director of Undergraduate Admissions. Lisa also focused on financial aid at Bentley University as the Assistant Director of Financial Assistance from 2002-2004.

Alayna Van Tassel

Alayna Van Tassel is Deputy Treasurer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Executive Director of the Office of Economic Empowerment. Alayna is currently the Deputy Treasurer and Executive Director of the Office of Economic Empowerment. She most recently served as Chief of Staff to House Committee on Post Audit and Oversight Committee Chairman David Linsky. As Chief of Staff, Van Tassel played a key role in the passage of the historic gun violence prevention bill as well as the approval of legislation relative to organized retail crime and violent habitual offenders. Van Tassel also oversaw investigations by the Post Audit and Oversight Committee, including the Department of Children and Families, Hinton State Drug Lab and the Pharmacy Regulations at the New England Compounding Center.

Jim Vetter

Jim has over 25 years of experience supporting diverse communities domestically and globally in promoting social and emotional health and well-being. As Executive Director of the Social-Emotional Learning Alliance for Massachusetts (www.sel4ma.org), Vetter works to help all young people succeed socially, emotionally and academically by advancing and supporting effective social and emotional learning programs, policies and practices in schools and communities throughout Massachusetts. Vetter also serves as Associate Director of Health and Technology at Education Development Center, Inc. He previously served as Director of Programs and Services at Open Circle; consulted on curriculum revisions and online professional development for the Second Step program for preschool through middle school; and consulted with numerous schools and districts on implementation of social and emotional learning. Vetter serves as Steering Committee Co-Chair and Board member for SEL4MA. Jim Vetter can be reached at jvetter@sel4ma.org.

More information available at: www.bettermakerroom.org and www.reachhigherma.org

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Thank you for coming!