

# RCC GAZETTE

THE MAGAZINE OF ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SUMMER 2020

ENROLLMENT  
7 SIMPLE STEPS

MEET THE STAFF  
EVELYN EVERTON

## CULTIVATING A STRONG WORKFORCE

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# Welcome

»It's difficult, if not impossible, to summarize how much the world has changed since we published the last issue of the Gazette. Over the past few months, we've watched our city completely shut down in response to an unforeseen global pandemic, witnessed people of all backgrounds peacefully protest systemic racism and oppression, and watched historic unemployment rates continue to rise.

While times are difficult and nothing seems certain, I am still hopeful for the future. And, if nothing else, I'm confident that RCC will continue to play a vital role in healing our community.

RCC was established due to civic action: Community members from Roxbury successfully lobbied the legislature to fund a community college dedicated to serving communities of color, and RCC was born. Combating institutionalized racism is at the core of our mission, now and always. We are committed to continuing our efforts to breaking down the barriers that prevent people of color from their inherent right to equal justice, as long as the fight lasts.

In order to be truly equal, our community must have access to affordable education that

provides the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in today's rapidly-evolving marketplace. RCC has always offered low-cost job training programs; and, we are thrilled to roll out new programs that lead to employment in health sciences, STEM, and the emerging cannabis industry this fall.

In this issue of the Gazette, you'll learn more about our new workforce programs, and you'll also learn how we support students through online and remote learning resources. Even with most courses being offered online or remote, we provide holistic support to ensure your success.

It's impossible to cover our commitment to the Greater Roxbury Community in one letter, or one print publication. While this issue of the Gazette provides an overview, there's so much more to how we fulfill our mission.

On that note, I'll leave you with this: Regardless of where we offer classes, in person or at a distance, we are here for you and totally committed to your success. RCC was founded by the community, for the community, and we will always find a way to honor our legacy and support community success.



**DR. VALERIE ROBERSON**  
PRESIDENT,  
ROXBURY  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE



The pressure of being a black man or black woman in this country is enormous. We are never judged as individuals because society has never allowed us that honor. Racism is real, inequality has always existed for us, but we never let it define who we are as a people. We are inventors, mentors, teachers, leaders, professionals, students, and much more. We will not let this current state of emergency make us give up our hope and our passion to be great and overcome any obstacle we face. We stand by you, we stand for you, and most importantly we stand with you!

**Jelani Townsell**  
*Assistant Dean of Athletics, Health and Wellness*



Questions regarding Roxbury Community College's curriculum, programs, or admissions can be directed to 617.427.0060. Visit us online at [rcc.mass.edu](http://rcc.mass.edu).

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*President of Roxbury Community College*

**Mission Statement**

Roxbury Community College (RCC) provides a nurturing environment, where all community members are welcome, regardless of past education. We transform lives through excellence and innovation, preparing our learners for active citizenry and success in a changing world.

**Statement of Publication**

This is an official publication of Roxbury Community College. Course offerings, dates, tuition, fees, and other information are subject to change. The College reserves the right to revise any material described in this publication. The information in this publication is provided for convenience, and the College disclaims any liability that may be incurred. This publication is neither a contract nor an offer to make a contract.

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Roxbury Community College is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer. All inquiries concerning application of the above should be directed to the College's Affirmative Action Officer, Coordinator of Title IX, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator.

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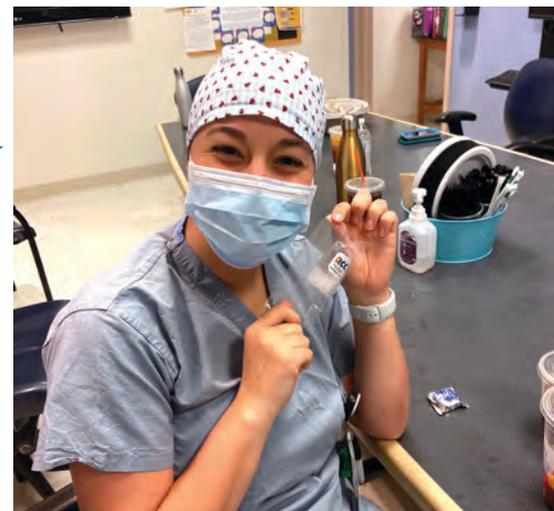
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# Community Caring During COVID-19

## CONTINUING RCC'S LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

» Even in the midst of a global pandemic, RCC is committed to providing our community with service and support. Here are the details for some, but not all, of the ways we supported the community over the past few months, even though we couldn't be on campus.

### PPE DONATION

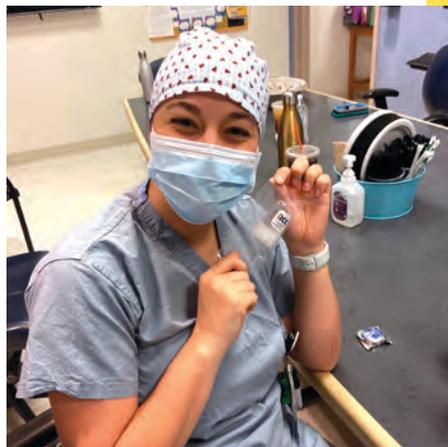
The Emergency Management Team at RCC continues to work closely with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to support statewide efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In March, the College donated 26,000 gloves and 500 masks to MEMA, helping to provide nurses, doctors, hospital staff, and other first responders with the equipment needed to treat patients safely. This donation was made after setting aside gloves and masks for essential RCC personnel. The College will continue to work with MEMA, providing support and supplies whenever possible.

### EMS TRAINING

RCC partnered with Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) to provide the use of parking lot space at RCC for EMS training during the month of May. The training focused on the use and operation of EMS vehicles. RCC is happy to partner with the City of Boston to provide space for essential services training to help combat the effects of COVID-19.

### US CENSUS SUPPORT

Now more than ever, it's important that every resident of Greater Boston is counted through the U.S. Census, so that our community has access to federal resources based on our actual population. RCC supported U.S. Census collection efforts through digital communications and community collaborations, and will continue this work throughout the census collection period. If you haven't completed your census yet, you aren't too late! Visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) to complete the census on behalf of your household, today!



### NURSES APPRECIATION DAY

For Nurses Appreciation Day, Assistant Dean Kandley Val delivered hand sanitizers and lunch to the nurses of North 6 (Cardiology) at Tufts Medical Center.

**Are you familiar with any community organizations, nonprofits, or local businesses in need of RCC's support? Contact Nate Simms, Director of Community and Governmental Affairs at [nsimms@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:nsimms@rcc.mass.edu) to discuss initiating a collaboration.**

# Our Virtual Learning Community

## RCC SUPPORTS STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH REMOTE RESOURCES

» In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, RCC transitioned student support services to a remote delivery model. This means that students now receive guidance primarily through web-based collaboration tools (Zoom and Microsoft Teams, in particular), email communications, and phone calls. While we're limiting face-to-face interactions, the College's commitment to supporting student success hasn't changed. Here's an overview of how students can connect with student support staff without visiting campus.



RCC students enrolled in online and remote classes use web-based collaboration tools, like Microsoft Teams, to interact with classmates and professors.

### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Professional tutors work with students one-on-one or in small groups to improve academic skills and to develop learning strategies. Tutoring is designed to enhance and support classroom learning so that students gain the skills and confidence to be successful in coursework. The Learning Center staff is equipped to provide you with academic support through virtual appointments, which are offered during day and evening hours.

### LIBRARY

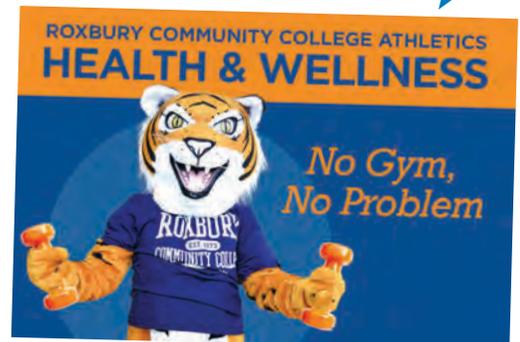
The RCC Library has an array of resources that can be accessed from off campus to meet your research needs. The library website includes a live-chat option during RCC's business hours to help you with any research needs that you have. More information is available at [rcc.mass.edu/library](http://rcc.mass.edu/library).

### TRANSFER SERVICES

All credits at RCC transfer to four-year schools, and we know that many students are interested in pursuing bachelor's degrees. Transfer Services remains committed to assisting you with transfer applications and ensuring that your materials reach transfer institutions promptly. More information is available at [rcc.mass.edu/transfer](http://rcc.mass.edu/transfer).

### ATHLETICS, HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Office of Athletics, Health and Wellness is committed to helping you stay active, even when the gym is closed. The office regularly publishes newsletters with at-home workouts, which are available at [rcc.mass.edu/athletics](http://rcc.mass.edu/athletics). No gym? No problem!



“ Even during challenging times, I know how important my work is for our students and the College. My goal is to provide equal opportunities and access to higher learning for our students, and to foster academic pathways and partnerships that keep the RCC community healthy and strong. ”

— Loretta Minor, Coordinator of Transfer Affairs and Articulation, Roxbury Community College

#### GET IN TOUCH:

The services listed here are just a few ways we support RCC students. For a full list of remote support services, including a full directory with remote contact information, visit [rcc.mass.edu/remotelearning](http://rcc.mass.edu/remotelearning).

# CULTIVATING A STRONG WORKFORCE



“BECMA is pushing every company, every city, and every state leader to understand that the development of some communities cannot coexist with the underdevelopment of others. RCC has been a great partner in helping us move this message forward to ensure that all are playing their role in enhancing the economic well-being of Black residents across Massachusetts.”

— Segun Idowu, Executive Director,  
Black Economic Council of Massachusetts

## Equipping You with the Skills to Join Boston's Evolving Economy

» At RCC, we regularly partner with employers and organizations seeking to build sustainable career pathways for students. We play an important role by creating programs that provide Boston's workers with tools for economic advancement, as a bridge to economic recovery for our city and its residents.

New Workforce Development programs are focused on providing Greater Boston residents with the knowledge and skills needed to join a changing economy. Providing our students with a high-quality/low-cost education and career-specific training enables them to compete for good jobs and prepares them to embark on sustainable careers.

RCC is committed to addressing the consequences of unemployment and underemployment by offering a wide range of activities and programs to help Boston cultivate a viable workforce that will support current and future business and industry. By offering a variety of programs in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and Health Sciences careers, we are empowering our students to focus their education on growth industries as both an economic development strategy and an effort to raise median household income in our community.

### PREPARING FOR A CYBER-CENTRIC WORKFORCE

In collaboration with Google, our new Google IT Support Professional Certificate Program covers a wide variety of topics. The coursework is designed to give students an overview of the fundamentals of modern networking technologies and protocols for practical applications and network troubleshooting. Participants will learn how to use Windows and Linux, including the main components of an operating system and how to perform critical tasks. This program covers a wide variety of IT security concepts, tools, and best practices for becoming an IT support professional.

Effective network security targets a variety of threats and stops them from entering or spreading on your network. Our recent partnership with Cisco® Learning Services Security training takes full advantage of the collective expertise of global security experts to deliver a thorough, hands-on, and relevant experience for our students. The course covers configuring network components such as switches, routers, and wireless LAN controllers; managing network devices; and identifying basic security threats. Completing the course also gives enrollees a foundation in network programmability, automation, and software-defined networking and prepares you to be a viable candidate in the field.

## BREAKING BARRIERS IN OTHER INDUSTRIES

Training the workforce in innovation does not stop at technology. The war on drugs disproportionately impacted communities of color, and RCC is playing an important role in ensuring that our community is equipped to benefit from the recent legalization of the cannabis industry. RCC is collaborating with a consortium of nonprofits and legislators to offer the new Cannabis program, CultivatED. The pilot program will begin offering courses — like Introduction to Cannabis and Cannabis & the Law — to a select group of fellows through RCC instruction. The 15-week program is a hybrid of classroom instruction, retail work experience, and cultivation job experience, tentatively scheduled to begin on September 14, 2020.

For more information, visit [masscultivated.com](https://masscultivated.com).

“Being separated by the transition to remote learning has not changed my drive or dedication to our students.”

— Evelyn Everton



## Meet the Staff

EVELYN EVERTON

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

» Since coming to this country from the Dominican Republic, much of Evelyn Everton's professional career has centered around community organizing. Before joining our Workforce Development division, Evelyn spent several years working with NBC Universal Telemundo. As someone who is deeply committed to mission-driven work, she has designed a career focused on supporting those in under-resourced communities to get the information and opportunities they need to succeed.

Evelyn's commitment to our students is rooted in her own experiences being new to this country and creating a life here. She understands that economic empowerment is a pathway to equity for people of color in Boston. Evelyn is committed to increasing opportunities for immigrant communities and other marginalized people, from seeing themselves reflected in media to being prepared for the workplace.

Creating pathways for communities of color to come together and learn at institutions like RCC enables her to act on behalf of our community's shared interests. She is motivated to help the College ensure students enrolled in our programs are equipped with tools for economic advancement. As Assistant Director of Workforce Development, Evelyn helps RCC build partnerships that bridge the gap between what workers know and what employers need. Those partnerships enable us to provide the education opportunities that improve skill levels for workers who seek career advancement, at low cost.

## Full Course Schedule For Workforce Programs Fall 2020

### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSES

- Cisco® Learning Services Security training
- Clinical Medical Assistant Part 1
- Clinical Medical Assistant Part 2
- Google IT Support Professional Certificate Program
- Home Health Aide
- Medical Billing and Coding
- Pharmacy Technician Part 1
- Pharmacy Technician Part 2
- Phlebotomy Part 1
- Sterile Processing
- Office Administration
- Real Estate Pre-Licensing
- Veterinary Technician Assistant

All Classes begin the week of September 1, 2020.  
Ready to register and learn more? Visit [rcc.mass.edu/pe](https://rcc.mass.edu/pe)  
or contact (857) 701-1603 or [EEverton@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:EEverton@rcc.mass.edu)  
to get started, today!

### GET IN TOUCH:

To learn more about the opportunities in our Workforce Development division, contact **Salvador Pina** at **857-701-1604** or email [spina@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:spina@rcc.mass.edu).



Beginning in Fall 2020, all students who need a laptop or internet hot spot will be provided with one for the duration of their studies.

## Technology & Financial Support

PROVIDING YOU WITH THE TOOLS NEEDED FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

» At RCC, we are committed to eliminating all of the barriers that might prevent potential students from enrolling at RCC. We will do everything possible to ensure that anyone who is interested in pursuing a college education has the opportunity to do so.

Beginning in Fall 2020, all students who need a laptop or internet hot spot will be provided with one for the duration of their studies. Laptops and hot spots will be issued at the start of each semester, ensuring that all students can complete online, remote, or hybrid coursework.

We know that many community members were impacted by the economic upheaval caused by COVID-19. Many are looking to rejoin the workforce with a new job that requires new knowledge and skills, but perhaps believe they do not have the financial resources needed. RCC's Office of Financial Aid is committed to ensuring that all students receive the funding needed for full- or part-time studies, through:

### ■ Federal Financial Aid

Many students who complete the FAFSA form qualify for Pell Grants to cover all or part of their RCC tuition and fees. We keep the cost of full-time studies below the maximum Pell Grant allocation, ensuring that the neediest students have no out-of-pocket expense.

### ■ State- and City-Supported Financial Aid Programs

**Tuition-Free Community College Plan:** This city-sponsored plan allows BPS grads to enroll at Boston-area community colleges at no cost.

**The Commonwealth Commitment:** This state-sponsored plan allows Massachusetts residents to earn both an associate degree and a bachelor's degree at an affordable cost.

**The Boston Bridge:** This collaboration between the city's Tuition-Free Community College Plan and the state's Commonwealth Commitment program allows students to earn their associate and bachelor's degrees, free of tuition and mandatory fees.

### ■ Merit and Need-Based Scholarships

For more information on how RCC's Office of Financial Aid can help you cover the cost of your education, visit [www.rcc.mass.edu/future-students/financial-aid](http://www.rcc.mass.edu/future-students/financial-aid), call 857-701-1220 or email [FinAid@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:FinAid@rcc.mass.edu).

# Project Access: Committed to Serving All Student Needs On and Off Campus

» Since launching in 2016, Project Access at RCC has served as a one-stop resource for students who need access to personal and community resources. During the COVID-19 era and under the leadership of Director Lisa Carter, the mission of Project Access has remained unchanged: to help students feel supported and achieve success.

“In my role as Director of Project Access, I am responsible for the development, implementation, management, and delivery of non-academic support services at Roxbury Community College,” says Lisa. “I provide outreach to potential students by conducting benefit screening, counsel students through the application process for federal benefits, and provide follow-up and advocacy for students who were initially denied but appear eligible.”

At the beginning of each semester, as students settle in, Project Access may see up to 25 students weekly. Now that we are working remotely, Lisa works to maintain her connection with the students. In her outgoing email, she provides her updated contact phone numbers, and her voice message lets the students know the office hours. Emergency hotline numbers are also provided if the call comes in after office hours. Most support meetings are conducted via Zoom, a video conferencing service that allows the students to hold face-to-face intake meetings. Every effort is made to follow up with students promptly.

Although Lisa had



to adjust her working style when the College moved to a remote services model, she is still able to provide comprehensive support. RCC students face myriad challenges, including locating and maintaining suitable living conditions, finding a space and time to focus, learning self-discipline to stay on track, being primary caretakers in the home, and speaking English as a second language. Especially during COVID-19, it is common for students to have expressed feelings of isolation, and to present new or worsening mental health concerns.

“My current career path has given me the fortunate opportunity to meet some amazing students,” says Lisa. “It allows me to help students achieve their dream of completing a college education. I am humbled by my experiences and my desire is to continue to provide leadership and guidance to students, faculty and administrators to increase retention and student success.”

**GET IN TOUCH:**  
You can contact **Lisa R. Carter, Director of Project Access**, Roxbury Community College at **617-682-9458** (remote phone number) or email **lcarter@rcc.mass.edu**.

**Through Project Access, RCC students facing obstacles are referred to numerous partner organizations, including:**

- **Metro Housing | Boston**  
housing
- **Ksazenak “K House”**  
housing for students attending Bunker Hill, MA College of Art, RCC and UMass Boston
- **Sitters Without Borders**  
low-cost babysitting for low-income mothers attending college
- **Casa Myrna**  
supportive services, domestic violence — confidential service by legal advocates

Throughout the summer, RCC is developing a new program to help address food insecurity. Visit [rcc.mass.edu/project-access-at-rcc](http://rcc.mass.edu/project-access-at-rcc) for more info!

# Seven Simple Steps to Become a Student at RCC

» All Fall 2020 courses at RCC begin during the week of September 1, 2020. In effort to limit campus foot traffic while offering students a variety of attendance options, Fall 2020 courses will be offered through different delivery options:

- **Web** — Web courses are completed entirely online, and you complete coursework at your own pace. While you must submit assignments and exams by set deadlines, you can do the work during the days and times that work best with your schedule.
- **Virtual and Remote** — Virtual and remote courses are completed online but have set meeting times, when you are required to log in and participate in course meetings via Microsoft Teams, Zoom, or other web-based communication tools.
- **Hybrid** — For hybrid courses, you will be required to attend a limited number of on-campus classes according to a set schedule. Excluding these required in-person classes, all coursework is completed online and at your own pace, so long as assignments and exams are submitted by established deadlines.
- **Face-to-Face** — A limited number of courses will be offered through traditional, on-campus instruction. CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines will be adhered to. For more information on RCC's on-campus guidelines, visit [rcc.mass.edu/coronavirus](https://rcc.mass.edu/coronavirus).

Step-by-step instructions are also available online at [rcc.mass.edu/apply](https://rcc.mass.edu/apply). You can also contact the Enrollment Center directly at 857-701-1200 or [enrollment.management@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:enrollment.management@rcc.mass.edu).

## READY TO ENROLL IN FALL CLASSES AND BECOME A PART OF THE RCC COMMUNITY? FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO ENROLL:

- 1** Complete the online application.
- 2** Submit your FAFSA. The form is available at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov). When completing the FAFSA online, be sure to list Roxbury Community College in the "schools information section." Our code is 011930.
- 3** Complete the assessment test. You can now complete the test online! More information is available at [rcc.mass.edu/testing](https://rcc.mass.edu/testing).
- 4** Meet with an advisor to develop an academic plan and register for classes. A student resource directory with contact information for advisors is available at [rcc.mass.edu/remoteteaching](https://rcc.mass.edu/remoteteaching).
- 5** Attend new student orientation.
- 6** Pay your bill.
- 7** Attend class!

# ENROLL FOR FALL CLASSES NOW!

CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

VISIT: [www.rcc.mass.edu/fall20](https://www.rcc.mass.edu/fall20)

CALL: 857-701-1200

**YOUR FUTURE IS OUR FOCUS**

**ROXBURY**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# Lifelong Learning

Where learning never gets old.  
Whether you're 8 or 88, find  
something for the whole family!

## Upcoming Course Offerings

Check out our website at [www.rcc.mass.edu/LL](http://www.rcc.mass.edu/LL) or  
contact us at (617) 652-0083 for more information.

**REGISTER TODAY!**

**\*FALL COURSES WILL BE OFFERED ONLINE\***



- **ESOL English Classes**  
- Starts September 7 & 8  
\* New students must take a test.  
Contact us for details.

- **HiSET® /GED Classes**  
- Starts September 14 & 15

- **TEAS Exam Prep**  
- Starts September 14  
(Nursing/Health Admissions Exam)

- **Spanish for Beginners**  
- Starts September 14

- **Home Staging & Redesign**  
- Starts September 16



- **Public Speaking Skills**  
- Starts September 17
- **Entrepreneurship Seminar:  
Start Your Own Business**  
- Starts September 14

- **Event Planning**  
- Starts September 15

- **\*NEW\* Coming Soon:**
  - American Sign Language
  - Cape Verdean Creole
  - Knitting
  - Nutrition
  - Resumes & Interviewing
  - Yoga



- **Building Black Wealth: FREE  
Financial Empowerment Series**  
- Jun 10, Jul 8, Aug 12, Sep 9,  
Oct 14, Nov 18, Dec 9  
[RCCWealth.Eventbrite.com](http://RCCWealth.Eventbrite.com)

- **1st-Time Homebuyers Classes**  
*Limited spots. Contact us for dates.*

### Register Early!

Courses fill up quickly  
and registration  
typically closes one  
week before the  
course starts.

Have a  
course  
proposal?  
Email us!



Computer  
Coding Club,  
LEGO Robotics,  
Summer STEAM  
Weeks,  
and more!

**Lifelong Learning**  
Contact: Lise Snow

Email: [LHagen@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:LHagen@rcc.mass.edu) | Tel: (617) 652-0083

**ROXBURY**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# STEP IN TO A NEW CAREER IN 2020



## NEW CLASSES START IN FALL 2020

- CLINICAL MEDICAL ASSISTANT
- MEDICAL BILLING AND CODING
- PHARMACY TECHNICIAN
- PHLEBOTOMY
- REAL ESTATE PRE-LICENSING
- VETERINARY TECHNICIAN ASSISTANT

To register or for more info:  
Visit: [www.rcc.mass.edu/cwd](http://www.rcc.mass.edu/cwd)  
Call: 857-701-1603  
Email: [eeverson@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:eeverson@rcc.mass.edu)

**ROXBURY**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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**CONGRATULATIONS  
ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CLASS OF  
2020**

**YOU DID IT!**

**WE SALUTE YOUR PERSEVERANCE,  
RESILIENCY AND SUCCESS!**

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