

# RCC GAZETTE

THE MAGAZINE OF ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SPRING 2018

ALUMNI  
SPOTLIGHT

LATIFA  
ZIYAD ALI

RCC  
LEADING  
THE WAY  
IN GREEN  
ENERGY

PG 3

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- » STEM ENDORSEMENTS AND INNOVATION
- » STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS
- » NEW FACULTY PROFILES

RCC's newly renovated library,  
on the 2nd Floor of Building 3



» RENOVATED SPACES NOW OPEN PG 10

# Welcome

» Now that the 2017-2018 academic year has come to a close, and I have a moment to reflect on the progress I've seen over the past year, I'm particularly thrilled by the academic excellence and student achievement attained at RCC over the past year.

To start, I'd like to congratulate the Class of 2018 on earning their degrees! Our graduates come from 40 different cities and towns. They range in age from 19 to 66, which shows that it's never too early or too late to earn your degree! Class of 2018: As you leave RCC to attend four-year schools or join the workforce directly, I hope that you stay in touch and remain a part of the RCC family. Remember, once a Tiger, always a Tiger.

I'm thrilled that as this academic year ends, the bulk of the on-campus construction work is ending, as well. I'd like to take a moment to thank all of our students, faculty, staff, and friends for their patience throughout this pro-

cess. While some work will continue through the calendar year, we'll have most of our on-campus space ready for instructional use by Fall 2018. If you haven't visited our renovated campus yet, I encourage you to stop by at any time.

In this edition of the RCC Gazette, you'll also learn more about our newly opened spaces, and most importantly, you'll learn more about the academic excellence I mentioned previously. From STEM accolades and innovation (pages 4 to 5) to the College's first Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Awardee (page 8), I'm sure you'll be as impressed as I am with the accomplishments of the RCC community.

I hope that you enjoy learning about what makes RCC special and unique throughout this edition of the RCC Gazette. And, I hope that you'll visit us throughout the summer. Our 4th annual Roxbury Rocks Music Festival is scheduled for July 21, 2018—I look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you, again, for your continued support.



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

**YOUR  
FUTURE  
IS OUR  
FOCUS**



**FALL 2018  
REGISTRATION  
IS OPEN NOW!**

**One-Stop  
Open Registration**  
8/20/2018- 9/4/2018

**Classes Begin**  
9/5/2018



Get a head start by applying online, today!  
Learn more at [www.rcc.mass.edu](http://www.rcc.mass.edu)  
or call us at 857-701-1200

**ROXBURY**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Questions regarding Roxbury Community College's curriculum, programs, or admissions can be directed to 617-427-0060.

**Publisher** Dr. Valerie R. Roberson, President of Roxbury Community College  
**Managing Editor** Jordan Emily Smock  
**Senior Writer** Vanessa Lewis  
**Photography** Phuong Tang, Pamela Green  
**Designer** Daniel Goodwin, BSB Design  
**Copy Editor** Sandra Larson, Bay State Banner

Visit Roxbury Community College online at [www.rcc.mass.edu](http://www.rcc.mass.edu) or call us at 617-427-0060

**Roxbury Community College Board of Trustees**

Mr. Gerald Chertavian, *Chair*  
 Mr. Mark Culliton, *Secretary/Clerk*  
 Ms. Amanda Fernandez  
 Ms. Betty Francisco  
 Dr. Jeffrey Greenberg  
 Ms. Chrystal Kornegay  
 Mr. Isrraul "Izzy" Marrero  
 Ms. Josiane Martinez  
 Mr. Steven Tompkins  
 Ms. Amanda Schaefer, *Alumni Trustee*  
 Ms. Remianna Hearn, *Student Trustee*

Dr. Valerie R. Roberson,  
*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.

**Affirmative Action/EEO Statement of Non-discrimination**

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.

Chief Human Resources/Affirmative Action Officer &  
 Title IX Coordinator, 617-541-5386, Administration Building Room 313  
 Dean of Student Life and 504 Coordinator, 617-933-7450

**Inside**

**UPDATES AND NEWS**

- 2 Year in Review
- 3 Leading the State in Green Energy Initiatives
- 10 New Library and Learning Center Now Open!



**PROGRAMS**

- 4 Cover Story: Creating Pathways to STEM Success
- 12 STEM Lifelong Learning at RCC



**SPOTLIGHT**

- 6 Meet the Faculty: Jose Silva and Philip Brown
- 8 Celebrating Student Success at RCC
- 11 Meet our alumna: Latifa Ziyad Ali (AA, '16)



**SERVICES**

- 14 Workforce Development Programs
- 16 Enrollment and Financial Aid



# Year in Review

» Roxbury Community College is host to countless athletic events, cultural programs, student activities, and civic engagements each year. These photos capture some, but not all, of the engaging events hosted at or by RCC over the past academic year. Keep an eye on our website for information on recent events and to learn more about upcoming events at RCC!



**1** Dr. Mark Nicholas, Executive Director of Institutional Assessment at Framingham State University, speaks with faculty and staff at the Boston Metro Region Assessment Professional Day, held at Roxbury Community College on Thursday, March 8, 2018.

**2** Members of the renowned a capella group Sweet Honey in the Rock® pose with President Valerie Roberson, Vice President Lorita Williams and Vice President Kevin Hepner prior to the concert on March 9, 2018. Their concert was the College's first celebrity fundraiser.

**3** Over 40 employers and 200 job seekers participated in RCC's job fair, co-organized by Fenway CDC, on March 29, 2018.

**4** City Councillor Kim Janey and President Valerie Roberson pose for a photo after congratulating students on their achievements at RCC's Student Awards Night.

**5** SGA reps at the November 2017 Homecoming Basketball Game.

**6** Assistant Dean Jelani Townsell poses with RCC student-athletes at Student Awards Night.

**7** From left to right: RCC Board of Trustees Chairman Gerald Chertavian, WT Rich Founder and President Walter Rich, Representative Russell E. Holmes, Governor Charlie Baker, Vice President Lorita Williams, President Valerie Roberson, and Sheriff Steven Tompkins officially open the new RCC at the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on October 5, 2017.

**8** Ugonna Onyemah, RCC's "29 Who Shine" award winner, receives her award from Governor Charlie Baker at the State House on May 4, 2018.

# RCC – Leading the State in Green Energy Initiatives



**From left to right:** Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Judith Judson, President Valerie Roberson, VP of Administration and Finance Kevin Hepner, VP of Advancement and Community Engagement Lorita Williams, VP of Academic and Student Affairs Cecile Regner, and DCAMM Commissioner Carol Gladstone.

## ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES LEADING BY EXAMPLE AWARD

» On November 30, 2017, the Baker-Polito Administration recognized eight Massachusetts state agencies, public colleges, municipalities, and public sector individuals for their leadership in promoting clean energy and environmental initiatives with the 11th annual Leading by Example Awards. Awardees were honored for policies and programs that created significant energy and emissions reductions, renewable energy installations, water conservation, and the implementation of sustainability initiatives that reduce the environmental impacts of state and municipal operations.

“Massachusetts continues to make historic advances in adopting clean energy and reducing emissions because of the commitment of our partners across state and local government,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “The innovations and progress made by today’s award recipients will have positive effects on the Commonwealth for generations to come.”

Roxbury Community College received a recognition award for the completion

of a “tri-level” energy project on campus in 2017 that included a 937-kilowatt solar canopy, electric vehicle charging stations, geothermal wells under the parking lot, and the use of environmentally preferable cleaning products.

Dr. Valerie Roberson accepted the award on behalf of Roxbury Community College. “I am honored to receive this award on behalf of Roxbury Community College,” said Dr. Roberson. “Our recent energy project is already benefitting our campus, and I look forward to launching our Smart Building Technology Program, which is made possible because of our energy project, in the near future.”

At the ceremony, Dr. Roberson was joined by senior administrators from Roxbury Community College, including Vice President of Administration and Finance Kevin Hepner, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Cecile Regner, and Vice President of Advancement and Community Engagement Lorita Williams. Members of the state legislature were also on hand to celebrate RCC’s success in the field of clean energy.

**279,934**  
POUNDS



The total amount (lbs) of Carbon Dioxide avoided since installation.

**221,933**  
KWH

(Energy Year-to-Date as of 4/24/18)



The solar canopy consists of 2,700 solar panels and will produce renewable energy that will offset energy costs for the College.

**\$860,000**  
COST SAVINGS  
(Annual)



The expected amount of energy cost Roxbury Community College saves annually.

**129,892**  
MILES



The total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> avoided is equal to this many miles driven in a family sedan.



### SOLAR CANOPY PRODUCTION

The solar canopy above parking lot #1 has already started to drastically improve the College’s environmental footprint. The infographic above shows some of the green energy milestones achieved by the canopy (as of May 2018).

**ONLINE:**

Real-time information about the solar canopy’s output is available at:  
<https://solarems.net/kiosks/478>

# CREATING PATHWAYS TO STEM SUCCESS



## NEWS AND UPDATES FROM OUR STEM PROGRAMS

» It's no secret that Boston is a hub for STEM industries—in fact, a 2016 WalletHub report indicated that the Boston metro area ranks within the top 10 places in the U.S. for STEM jobs. It's also become common knowledge that STEM jobs are some of the most lucrative: according to a recent study from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "the national average wage for all STEM occupations was \$87,570, nearly double the national average wage for non-STEM occupations (\$45,700)."

At RCC, we take pride in preparing the next generation of leaders in STEM industries through rigorous and relevant coursework in a variety of programs, including biotechnology, engineering, biological sciences, and mathematics, to name a few.

Throughout this edition of the Gazette, you'll learn more about RCC's commitment to leadership in STEM education.

### **Biotechnology Programs Receive Platinum-Level Endorsement**

In January 2018, the MassBioEd Foundation announced that RCC's Associate in Science Degree in Biotechnology (AS) and our Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing Certificate received platinum-level endorsements from the organization. Our biotechnology programs have held the highest rating from this organization since 2011, when a gold-level endorsement was the highest level. In 2014, the platinum-level endorsement was created; both programs have maintained a platinum-level endorsement since then.

Congratulations to all of the faculty and staff who work to maintain this endorsement!

**ONLINE:**

For more information, visit the MassBioEd Foundation website at [www.massbioed.org](http://www.massbioed.org)

## Innovative Co-requisite Math Program

At RCC and almost all community colleges in the nation, students must complete a math test during the enrollment process, as a way to verify that students are prepared to take college-level math. Before Spring 2016, many RCC students placed into developmental math courses. The goal of these developmental courses was to teach students the fundamentals needed for success in college-level math.

Upon evaluating development course data from Fall 2010 – Fall 2016, the RCC math department determined that the success rates for the developmental classes needed improvement. According to a recent MDRC brief, this is a common problem, nationally, at community colleges: “Community colleges across the country confront a clear challenge: too many students arrive on campus unprepared, get placed into developmental (or remedial) courses where they fail to progress, and never complete a credential, graduate, or transfer to a four-year institution.”

In response, RCC’s Math Department, under the leadership of Mathematics Department Chair John McColgan, developed a new co-requisite model. In this model, students take the developmental math course during



“My quest for knowledge and skill coupled with a strong desire to positively impact the world led me to RCC: a college where hopes and dreams become reality. The faculty, staff, and my fellow students made RCC the best place for me. I see RCC not just as a college, but a citadel where leaders are made.”

— Ozulumba Nduka Kelechi, AA in Health Careers, '18,  
International Student from Lagos, Nigeria



Instructors and participants from the **3D Printing and Design Workshop** gather for a group photo.

### GET IN TOUCH:

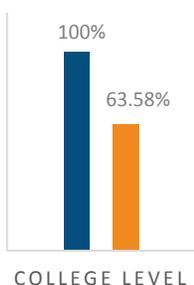
For more information on STEM programs at RCC, contact Hillel Sims at [hsims@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:hsims@rcc.mass.edu) or **857-701-1501**.

the same semester as the College-level math course. The initial results are compelling. 173 distinct students have participated in the co-req classes at RCC.

“The preliminary data we have shows that about 64 percent of RCC students who enroll in co-req classes pass their college-level course,” says Professor McColgan. “This is a significant improvement upon all levels of developmental education. This outcome seems to agree with data we have from other institutions in Georgia, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Indiana. Based on this data, the math department at RCC is going to eliminate ‘dev-ed’ math classes and replace them with co-req courses effective Summer 2018.”

### Co-req Students Spring 2016-Fall 2017

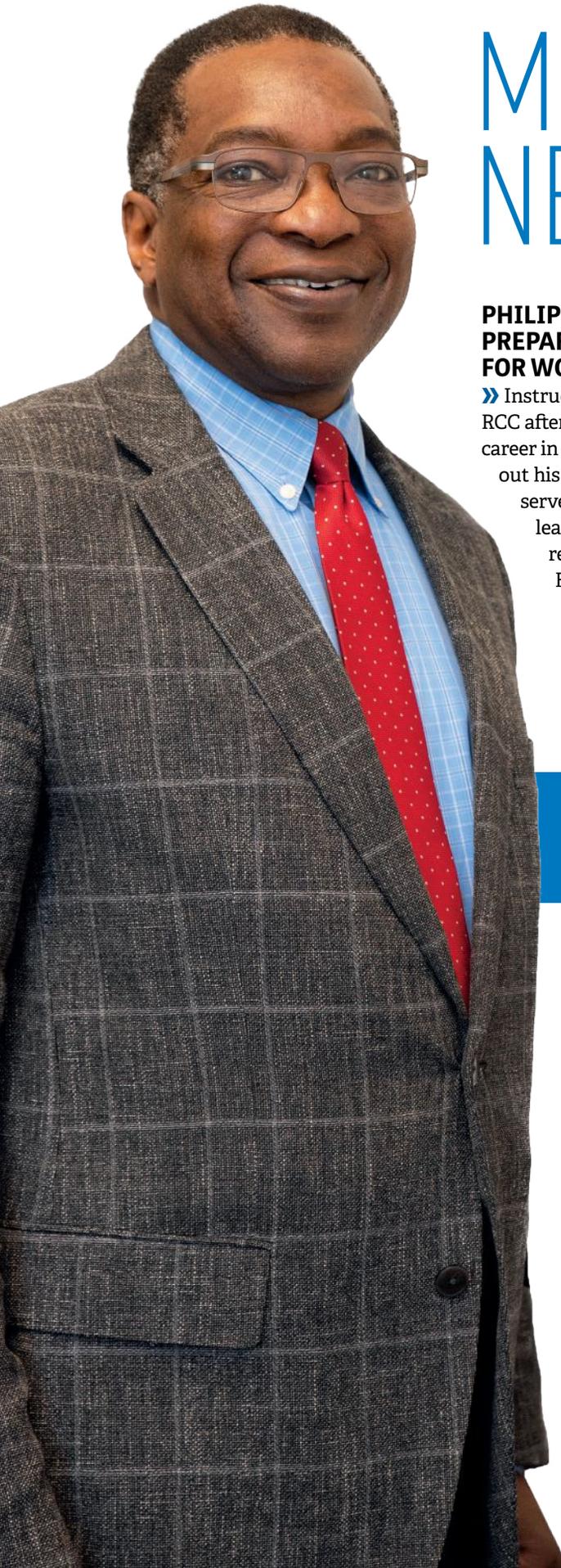
- Percent of Co-req Students that took
- Percent of Co-req Students that passed



COLLEGE LEVEL

## LSAMP Grant Funds 5-Day 3D Printing and Design Workshop

From May 21, 2018 to May 25, 2018, 11 RCC students, one UMass Boston student, and one RCC faculty member participated in the 3D Printing and Design Workshop, funded through a Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Program grant. Through this workshop, participants learned how to use CAD software to design 3D models and use 3D printers to produce products. On the final day of the workshop, participants presented business plans and overviews of their products, while showcasing prototypes and the final products.



# MEET OUR NEW FACULTY

## **PHILIP BROWN: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR WORKPLACE SUCCESS**

» Instructor Philip Brown joined RCC after completing a successful career in the private sector. Throughout his 20-plus-year career, he served in a variety of senior leadership roles, including Director of Capital Planning and Financing at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Senior Lending Officer at GMAC Mortgage, and, most recently, as principal of his own consulting firm, Philip Brown & Associates.

“My teaching isn't important; student learning is what matters.”

— Philip Brown

Over the past year, Brown has taught Introduction to Business, Introduction to Marketing, and Introduction to Management. He was also the inaugural teacher for the Year Up program in Sales & Customer Service.

“This is the first time I've held a teaching position,” says Brown. “I decided to teach because I was ready to make a career change. So, I learned about the innovative changes happening at RCC, and came down to the college to learn more.”

RCC was looking to augment the Business faculty — and Philip Brown was exactly what they were looking for.

“I thought since I'd been a student for 19 years of my life, being a teacher and educator shouldn't be that hard to do. It turns out teaching is a lot more difficult than I anticipated. I thought teaching was me telling the students information and content. But, in reality, I found out that I'm not here to 'teach' anyone, I'm here to help the students learn. My teaching isn't important; student learning is what matters.”

When using his corporate experience to develop curriculum, Brown focuses on skills that are relevant in the workplace, such as active listening and building relationships with clients and colleagues. Even when teaching business concepts, Brown always includes a real-world application, so that his students are prepared for the workplace. When deciding which of his jobs was most important in preparing him for teaching, Brown landed on an unexpected job: sales.

“I tell my students, many people think being a salesperson is convincing someone to buy a product. The truth of the matter is that being an effective salesperson involves listening to what people's needs are, and expressing what your value proposition is in regards to those needs. That's what I'm doing with my students. I listen to understand what their problems are, understand what's in the way of their learning, then help them find a way to meet their needs.”

Now that Brown has a year of teaching under his belt, he knows exactly how he'll approach his courses next year. And, he's committed to continuing the innovative on-campus speaker series "So Can I." Through this series, Brown brings community-based entrepreneurs to the classroom, to speak to students. This past year, the series featured Darryl Settles, Mark Lockett, and Dr. Charles Anderson, a former neo-natal surgeon who became an expert in private equity, and the largest franchisee of Planet Fitness across the country.

"The students love this series because it shows the students that they can succeed, because people just like them succeed every day. This series was so successful, we're going to open it up to the entire College next year."

### JOSE SILVA: PRIORITIZING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

» The Nursing Department at RCC is committed to preparing students to pass the licensing exam and go on to work as nurses in any health care setting. Our Nursing faculty, led by Jose Silva, DNP, strives to provide students with a solid nursing foundation that enables them to care for clients with common health problems.

When speaking with Jose Silva about his role at RCC, he paused during our conversation to take messages from Nursing students who'd received board results. After seeing how invested he was in their futures, why he chose to teach became obvious.

Silva came to RCC two years ago as a clinical instructor before transitioning to a full-time role this past fall. As a result, he has witnessed firsthand how much the program has grown in a short time. Enrollment continues to increase at record numbers, and three new faculty members will join the program in September. "When students come in for

an info session, I always offer a tour of the facility. For many, especially those who are working in the field already, the mock hospital is the deciding factor," says Silva.

As interim Program Coordinator, Silva's role sometimes requires that he act as an academic adviser, helping students adjust to life as a nursing student or prepare for entering the workforce after graduation. Silva, who grew up in Puerto Rico, holds an MS in Nursing and received his DNP at UMass Amherst. He has worked in the field and taught in the classroom simultaneously for years, which keeps him current in an ever-changing industry. Like him, upon graduation many of his students will go straight to the workplace, while pursuing advanced education in Nursing. "Nursing is doable when you make the commitment," says Silva. "You just need to be aware of what is expected of you."

Silva exemplifies RCC's

“Nursing is doable when you make the commitment. You just need to be aware of what is expected of you.”

— Jose Silva

commitment to support student learning. Under his direction, our faculty members are able to provide hands-on training and job readiness skills. More importantly, our Nursing faculty believes that nursing is the art and science of caring, and strive to convey that in every lesson.



# MEET OUR STUDENTS

## **AEFFIA FEUERSTEIN (AA IN LIBERAL ARTS, '18)**

» Some of our most successful students have had to overcome tremendous obstacles to reach their goals; Aeffia Feuerstein is no different. As one of 47 students nationwide to receive the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, Feuerstein, who nearly missed the application deadline, stood out in a pool of nearly 2,500 applicants.

Without a scholarship, Feuerstein was not sure she could afford to continue her education beyond RCC. In fact, she opted to stretch out her last semester to qualify for the Cooke award. She was nominated for this scholarship based on academic achievement, persistence, desire to help others, and leadership.

Postponing graduation might have felt like a setback to most students, but Feuerstein was focused on the long-term reward. For Feuerstein, detours are not a deterrent. Overcoming obstacles to achieve success is a lesson she learned early on, when she earned her high school equivalency after dropping out of high school at 14 years of age.

At RCC, Feuerstein is a strong advocate for the Honors Program. She is also a member of *Phi Theta Kappa* and worked with the group to amplify the voices of the larger Roxbury community. She has helped on projects through Reclaim Roxbury and is currently working with Voter Choice to “help to build an altar for the voiceless to speak from.”

Feuerstein attributes her academic success to the RCC community. “RCC is a very effective ladder and not a place you have to step on others to get ahead. People will support you, but you have to do the work. RCC has been a huge factor in grounding me.”

The combination of ambition, hard work, and resilience that Feuerstein draws on as a scholar is what earned her a place as a Cooke Scholar in 2018. After graduating in May,



**Aeffia Feuerstein** poses with Dr. Valerie Roberson at RCC's Student Awards Night

“RCC is a very effective ladder and not a place you have to step on others to get ahead.”

— Aeffia Feuerstein

Feuerstein will remain in Massachusetts, where she will go on to study Political Science and Writing at either Wellesley College or Brandeis University.

## **EDDIE BARETTO (AA IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, EXPECTED DEC. 2018)**

» As a first-generation student, earning a college degree promised stability for Eddie Baretto. Baretto, who took college courses during his junior and senior year in high school through the Dual Enrollment Program, understood the importance of education early on. When it came time to enroll, Baretto decided to take advantage of the Tuition-Free Community College Plan.

Before enrolling at RCC, Eddie Baretto was considering joining a trade union. He never wanted to take on the burden of financing his education. A graduate of neighboring Madison Park High School (Class of 2016) Baretto is one of the first RCC students to benefit from the new Tuition-Free Community College Plan. Being the first in his family to enroll at college meant taking on new challenges, such as the unexpected expenses associated with higher education.

The program has helped him to avoid education debt, which is particularly crippling for his generation.

“If you don’t network, you will never know what opportunities are out there,” said Baretto, adding that he could not have gotten into college without the support of his classmates and the professional staff at RCC.

As a scholar and star athlete, Baretto has quickly become one of our most competitive runners on the Track & Field team. Under the leadership of Head Coach Tommie Campbell Jr. and Assistant Coach Jerome Singleton, Baretto and the men’s track team qualified for the 2018 NJCAA Division III Men’s Outdoor Track & Field Championships, meeting the rigorous standards.

Baretto is only three classes away from earning his associate degree, and he’s still mulling over his post-graduation plans, although he is leaning toward attending UMass Amherst. If he does attend UMass Amherst, Baretto will be the first RCC student to complete the Boston Bridge Program, which allows Boston-based community college students to take advantage of both the Mayor’s Tuition-Free Community College Plan and the statewide Commonwealth Commitment.



#### MORE INFO:

To learn more about the Mayor’s Tuition-Free Community College Plan, Boston Bridge and the Commonwealth Commitment, turn to **page 16**.

**Eddie Baretto with Assistant Dean Jelani Townsell at Student Awards Night.**

“If you don’t network, you will never know what opportunities are out there.”

— Eddie Baretto

### MAOLIS CASTILLO (AS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE, '18)

» You don’t have to be studying the law to understand how important it is to know your rights. In fact, as an immigrant to this country, Maolis Castillo believes it is important for all its residents to know their rights. “If you don’t know your rights, those in power can abuse their power over you,” Castillo said.

Castillo remembers aspiring to become a lawyer as early as 6 years of age in her native Dominican Republic. As a strong-willed and opinionated young girl, it was the field her family thought suited her personality. Today, she is making that dream a reality through RCC’s Criminal Justice Program (Associate of Science in Criminal Justice) which offers stu-

dents an academic foundation in Criminal Justice combined with an emphasis on a real-world understanding of the field.

In the years since enrolling at RCC, Castillo feels fortunate to have received an education that continues to open many doors for her career aspirations. When she migrated to the U.S. in 2013, landing first in Miami, learning the language was her priority. Castillo began learning the English language and continued

“If you don’t know your rights, those in power can abuse their power over you.”

— Maolis Castillo



**Maolis Castillo, Class of 2018 Co-Valedictorian**

her ESL education here at RCC, a short time later in 2014. At RCC, Castillo has thrived. As a member and secretary of the Honors Society at RCC, member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, and Student Member of Massachusetts Bar Association, Castillo exemplifies the hard work and discipline needed to accomplish educational goals.

After graduation in May, Castillo plans to attend Boston University, where she will continue her Criminal Justice education.

# New Library and Learning Center

NOW OPEN!

## LIBRARY

» RCC's brand new library is now open, on the 2nd floor of Building 3 (the Academic Building). The library opened in March 2018, and now includes comfortable study spaces and private study rooms. The library also houses a new computer lab, with 22 computers, which can be reserved for private instruction. In addition to providing access to all RCC textbooks through reserves, the library houses 21,804 physical books, 54,367 ebooks and over 25,000 streaming videos.

## LEARNING CENTER

» The new Learning Center is now open in Room 203, Building 3 (the Academic Building). The Learning Center is the home of Student Support Services at RCC, which includes tutoring, math support, writing support, and language resources. The Learning Center is also a great place for group and/or individual study.



**ONLINE:**  
For more information on RCC's library, visit [www.rcc.mass.edu/library](http://www.rcc.mass.edu/library)



**ONLINE:**  
For more information on the Learning Center, visit [www.rcc.mass.edu](http://www.rcc.mass.edu)

# MEET OUR ALUMNA

## LATIFA ZIYAD ALI (AA IN BROADCAST MEDIA TECHNOLOGY, '16): COMBINING LIFE EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

» Back in 2014, Latifa Ziyad Ali was a mid-career professional, who had already obtained her master's degree, with no plans of changing careers. However, after meeting with an RCC admissions rep at a city-sponsored event, everything changed.

"I was recruited to RCC while working for the City of Boston as a Community Liaison for Inspectional Services," says Ali. "I invited RCC to an event in the community, where I met a recruiter and learned about all the great things happening at the College. He seemed so confident and inviting that he almost seemed like family. From there, the rest is history."

Ali decided to enroll at RCC to learn a new skill and to embark on a career change. She initially studied Health Careers, after using the City of Boston's tuition reimbursement program to become a Reiki Practitioner at another institution. She then transitioned to the Broadcast Media Technology Program, and her educational experience coupled with on-campus work opportunities allowed her to unleash her creative side. She particularly enjoyed the internships she completed through the BMT Program, including a year-long internship with Access Framingham.

"RCC is small enough that you are able to form real relationships with faculty and staff who become ad hoc mentors to you," says Ali. "It almost feels like I completed another master's there, because I was able to challenge myself in such unique ways."

Ali also had the unique experience of being enrolled in classes at the same time as her daughter, Sade White (AA in Music, '16). "At first, she told me not to talk to her and not tell anyone we were related," says Ali. "However, eventually she opened up to us having a relationship at school, and we even took classes together. A healthy competition emerged. It was a really fun experience."

After graduating from RCC, Ali continued her creative work. Recently, she made the decision to pursue a career in environmental and marine science (her undergraduate degree) and found an amazing new job as the Educational Coordinator for Community Resilience at the New England Aquarium. Her work focuses on great initiatives around resilience, related to urban heat island effect, vec-



tor diseases, rising tides, and water accessibility in East Boston, Chelsea, Lynn, and Hull.

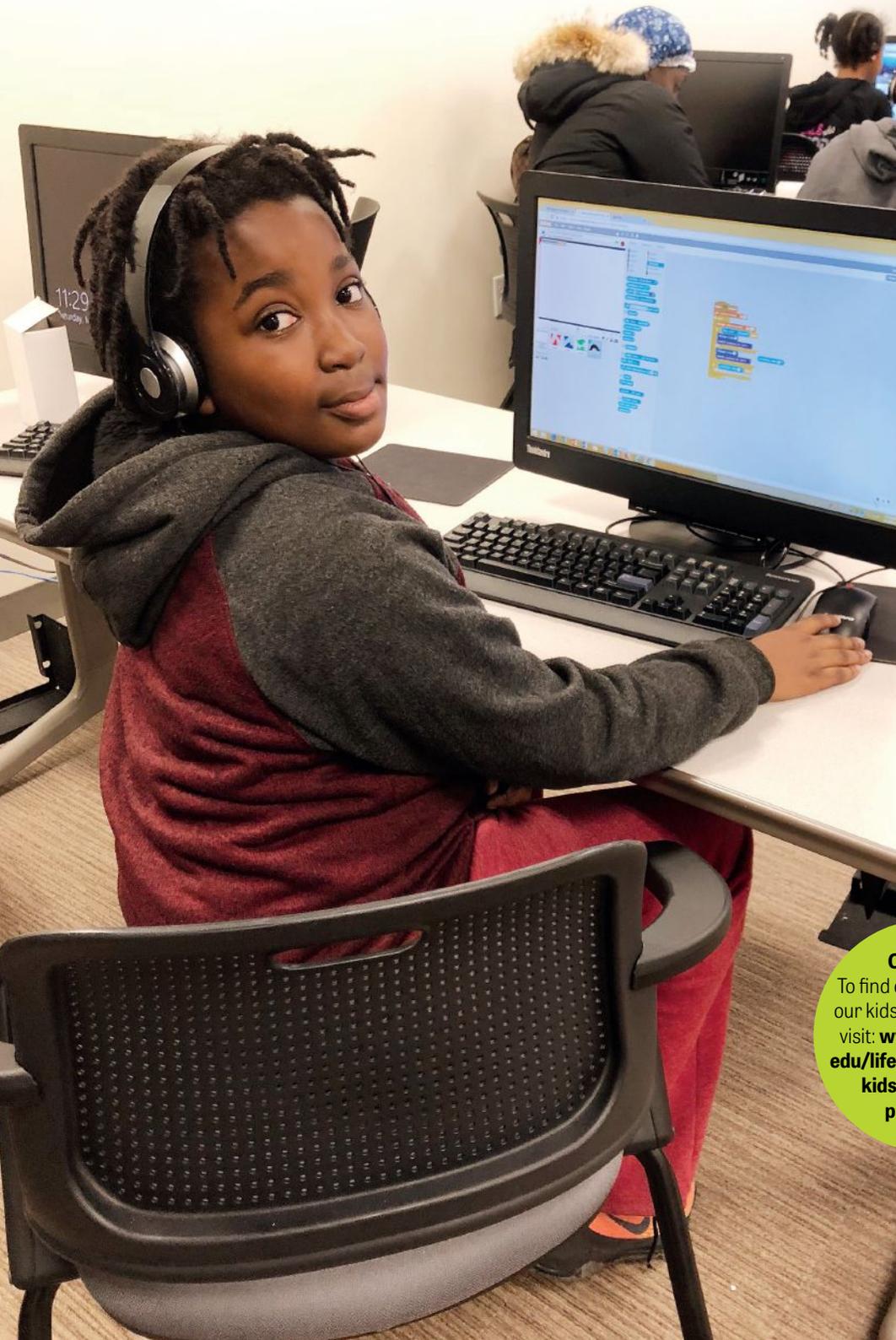
"This opportunity came as a bit of a surprise, and I love the job—I'm learning something new every day," says Ali. "The best part is that this job still allows me to be creative, so I can use it as a springboard to my own creative work, which is my passion."

Ali is currently working on screenplay, *JoJo and the Eleven Stars*, which she hopes to start filming in the near future. She's also working with young filmmakers to bring her play *It's About Time* to the screen. Ali credits the work she completed "behind the camera" at RCC with refining her skill set in this area. She's also working on a chapter in an upcoming book titled *Navy Soup for the Spirit*. And, as a self-described "perpetual learner," Ali is committed to continuing her education. In fact, she recently completed a week-long intensive workshop at Harvard Divinity School on the subject of dignity.

As Ali continues her professional growth, she hopes that other students can achieve the success she found after graduating from RCC.

"Leave your expectations at the door," is the solid advice that Ali offers to all RCC students. "Stay open-minded, and don't be afraid to try something new. Always be present in the moment of opportunity and it will gladly reveal itself to you."

**Brayden** learns to bring his animation to life using code.



# Lifelong Learning STEM Programs

ENGAGING OUR YOUNGEST STUDENTS IN THIS RAPIDLY GROWING FIELD

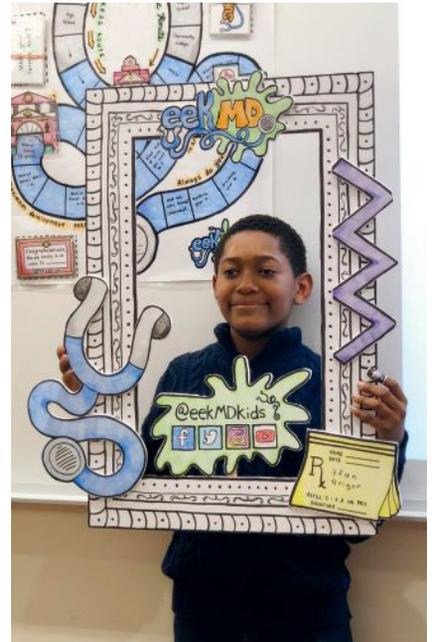
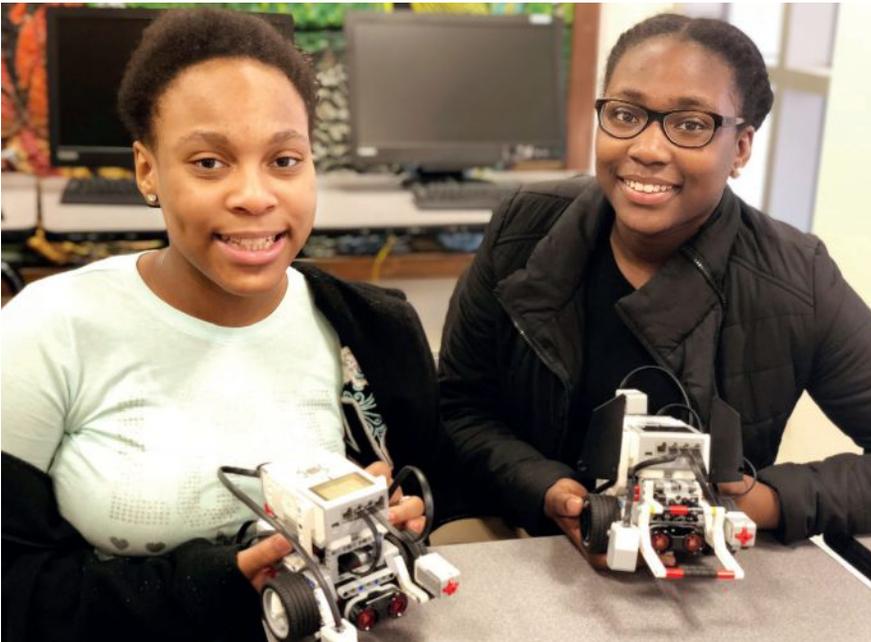
» It is never too early for children to be comfortable on a college campus and to feel confident it is where they belong. The Kids to College program at RCC provides some of the younger members of our community early access to the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curriculum in a college setting.

Our programs empower kids while they participate in fun and enriching activities. Closing the gap in access to quality STEM education for local underrepresented students, these interactive programs are designed for kids to stimulate creativity, learn new skills, gain confidence, and foster a stronger interest in these fields.

**ONLINE:**  
To find out more about our kids' programming, visit: [www.rcc.mass.edu/life-long-learning/kids-to-college-programs](http://www.rcc.mass.edu/life-long-learning/kids-to-college-programs)

The Lego Robotics Program, which is offered free of charge through a partnership between the Timothy Smith Network and Northeastern University

first-year Engineering students, is optimized for 5th-to-8th-grade students. This program introduces students to basic concepts in engineering, using LEGO robotics. Students learn to do everything from designing abstract 3D objects to



**(top left, top middle, bottom left)** Kids build and customize their robots. Once completed, they learn how to program their robots to solve problems and follow commands. **(top right, bottom right)** Kids participate in the Mini Med School graduation.

programming robotics devices to solve problems.

Our eekMD Mini Med School, for 3rd-to-5th-grade students, aims to lay the vital foundation for children's health and wellness. Each week our young doctors review a case study and focus on a different medical topic. A recent participant found that since participating in the program she is seeing medical professionals in a new light, "Doctors are focused, curious, and they always persevere."

Our Computer Coding Club introduces 7-to-13-year-olds to computer science through block-based coding using Scratch. The club is sponsored by Colaberry School of Data Science & Analytics, and its founder and CEO, Ram Katamaraja, loves inspiring kids with coding: "Coding is creativity and logic coming together."

### UPCOMING STEM PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

#### STEM Week (ages 7 – 9)

- » July 9 – July 13; Mon – Fri from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- » Chemistry Camp, Coding Club, Mini Med School, Creative Writing
- » Cost: \$175 (Sibling discount available)

#### STEM Week (ages 10 – 13)

- » August 6 – August 10; Mon – Fri from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- » LEGO Robotics, Money Matters, Creative Writing, STEM Career Panel
- » Cost: \$175 (Sibling discount available)

**Computer Coding:** September 8

**Mini Med School:** Fall

**LEGO Robotics:** September



## RCC Announces Exciting New Partnership with ECOlogic

» Roxbury Community College is pleased to announce a new partnership with ECOlogic to provide English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Workplace Literacy Training for ECOlogic employees. The program is designed to allow ECOlogic to increase customer satisfaction and achieve greater client retention by delivering faster and more cost-effective services while minimizing client disruption. The funding will support 330 classroom hours over a two-year period and will be matched by ECOlogic.

ECOlogic is a commercial carpet and textile cleaning and restoration expert delivering the latest technology to provide the highest-quality care solutions available. Through sustainable maintenance, ECOlogic products and services improve air quality by removing airborne particulates, including soil, spores, allergens, and bacteria, and extends the life of the carpet with technology that reduces water and electricity usage.

RCC provides customized training programs by performing an assessment and developing a curriculum to

address professional development needs. Training delivery is practical, focused, and engaging, providing trainees the opportunity to integrate existing knowledge and experiences with new information and insights. This training model allows participants to strengthen and polish their skill levels to fully carry out job duties in accordance with management's expectations. ECOlogic's customized program includes training at ECOlogic's headquarters through a designated schedule that is convenient for participants and management.

"To subsidize the cost of this program, Ecologic has applied for a Workforce Training Fund grant. If the grant is awarded, it will be the first grant provided by the Commonwealth Corporation Workforce Training Fund to help Roxbury Community College subsidize an employer's training program," said RCC Vice President of Advancement and Community Engagement Lorita Williams. "We are thrilled to partner with ECOlogic on this training program, as customized programs are an important com-



**From left to right:** RCC Executive Director of Workforce Development Salvador Pina, Co-founder and Principal of ECOlogic Tom Moore, RCC Vice President of Advancement and Community Engagement Lorita Williams, and ECOlogic employees celebrate the signing of an official MOU, formally establishing a partnership.

ponent of our workforce development portfolio. I'm certain this program will equip ECOlogic employees with the skills needed for career success, while also providing the Commonwealth with a more skilled workforce."

ECOlogic hopes to apply the grant toward ESOL and Workplace Literacy Training programs to improve employee understanding of required job procedures, technical skills, and material usage. The program will develop English conversation, reading, and writing skills to improve job effectiveness and help employees achieve organizational efficiency and quality improvement to reduce client callbacks and improve customer satisfaction. In total, 17 professional and technical staff members at ECOlogic will participate in the program.

"ECOlogic believes that our employees are a key part of

**GET IN TOUCH:**

To learn more about customized workforce development programs, contact: Salvador Pina, Executive Director, Center for Workforce Development, at **857-701-1604** or email **spina@rcc.mass.edu**

our success and we have a long-term commitment to helping them grow both professionally and personally. Thus, in selecting a training provider, we wanted one that could help develop the best program for our employees, and ultimately provide us with an enduring competitive edge in the industry," said Tom Moore, Co-founder and Principal at ECOlogic. "Roxbury Community College was selected because of its platform of experience in workforce development and in-demand skills training using adult learning principles. We are proud to be in a position to enhance the skills of our employees to allow us to provide better service."

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development is responsible for the Workforce Training Fund. The program provides resources to Massachusetts businesses to help address business productivity and competitiveness by funding training for current and newly hired employees.



**ONLINE:**  
To learn more about these programs, and to get started on the application process, visit [www.rcc.mass.edu/special-programs](http://www.rcc.mass.edu/special-programs)

## Enroll at RCC — Your Future Is Our Focus

» As you can see, RCC is college on the move—we've got great new facilities, amazing academic programs, and a community of experienced educators dedicated to your success! Fall 2018 classes begin on Wednesday, September 5, 2018.

Interested in becoming a student? You can start the registration process now! You can get a head start by applying online at [www.rcc.mass.edu](http://www.rcc.mass.edu). Or, you can stop by the Enrollment Center (Building 3, 2nd floor), to speak with an enrollment officer at any time.



## FINANCE YOUR STUDIES AT RCC

**As a Boston resident, you have two special programs to help finance your studies at RCC:**

### TUITION-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PLAN FOR BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADS

The Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, in partnership with Boston Public Schools, has rolled out the Tuition-Free Community College Plan to help BPS grads like you better afford college. The plan will pay for tuition and mandatory fees not covered by a student's Pell Grant. You may be eligible for this program if you graduated from a BPS high school in June 2016 or later; have a high school cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above, are eligible for a Pell Grant (as determined by FAFSA), require no more than three developmental classes by the start of the semester, and are a Boston resident. Funding is also available for DACA students.

### BOSTON BRIDGE

The Boston Bridge, offered jointly by the City of Boston and the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, links the existing Tuition-Free Community College plan and the Commonwealth Commitment. The Boston Bridge allows BPS grads who meet the criteria for each program to earn both an associate degree from RCC and a bachelor's degree from a state university or UMass campus free of charge.

### THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITMENT

New students at Roxbury Community College may be eligible to participate in the Commonwealth Commitment, a program offered through the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. Students who enroll in this program at RCC and complete their associate degree in 2.5 years with a 3.0 GPA are eligible for significant financial benefits upon transferring to a Massachusetts state university or UMass campus.

*All of these programs have specific criteria for participation.*

# Corporate & Community Education at Roxbury Community College: STEP IN TO A NEW CAREER IN 2018



## BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

**Class starts July 2018**

10 week, daytime and evening schedules  
Cost: \$250

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Class starts July 2018**

10 week, daytime and evening schedules  
Cost: \$250

## PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

**Class starts July 2018**

Various schedules offered both daytime and evening  
Cost: \$1,825

## PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN

**Class starts July 2018**

Various schedules offered both daytime and evening  
Cost: \$1,525

## HOME HEALTH CARE

**Class starts September 2018**

Cost: \$750

## VETERINARIAN ASSISTANT

**Class starts September 2018**

Various schedules offered both daytime and evening  
Cost: \$1,400

## EKG TECHNICIAN

**Class starts October 2018**

Various Schedules offered both daytime and evening  
Cost: \$1,114

For more information, call  
**857-701-1601** or **857-701-1602**  
or visit [www.rcc.mass.edu/cce](http://www.rcc.mass.edu/cce)

Payment options are available!

### Corporate & Community Education

Email: [cce@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:cce@rcc.mass.edu) | Tel: 857-701-1601

Office: Building #4, Room 102 | Hours: M-Th: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. | F: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



## Lifelong Learning

Whether you're 6 or 76,  
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 (857) 701-1605 for more information.

**REGISTER TODAY!**



- Conversational Spanish  
- Starts July 9 & September 18
- Grant Writing 101: Fundamentals  
- Starts September 26
- Grant Writing: Intermediate  
- Starts September 27
- Public Speaking and Presentation Skills  
- Starts July 16 & Sept 24
- Financial Empowerment Series  
- Mondays in October (FREE)



- Community ESOL English Classes - Starts September 5 (Assessment dates in July & Aug)
- Entrepreneurship Seminar: Start Your Own Business  
- Starts September 18
- Home Staging/Design  
- Starts October 2
- Art Classes  
- Stay tuned



### Exam Preparation

- HiSET® /GED Classes  
- Starts September 17
- TEAS Exam Classes - Starts Sept (Nursing/Health Admissions Exam)

### Designed for the Young at Heart

- Nutrition/Wellness for Seniors
- Will Writing
- Memoir Writing
- Computer Classes

### Register Early!

Courses fill up quickly and registration typically closes two weeks before the course starts.

RCC offers free parking and is easily accessible by Public Transportation.



### Classes for Kids

**Now Enrolling:**  
Summer Arts Program &  
Summer STEM Weeks

**Fall Programs:**  
Mini Medical School,  
LEGO Robotics,  
& Coding Club

### Lifelong Learning

Email: [lifelonglearning@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:lifelonglearning@rcc.mass.edu) | Tel: (857) 701-1605

Office: Building #4, Room 102 | Hours: M-Th: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. | F: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.





# *Congratulations* TO THE **CLASS OF 2018**

1234 Columbus Avenue  
Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120  
617-427-0060 | [www.rcc.mass.edu](http://www.rcc.mass.edu)

**ROXBURY**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE