Welcome

The 2018-2019 academic year marked another year of progress and success at RCC, thanks to the efforts of our faculty, staff, students, and to the support we received from our community partners.

To start, I’d like to congratulate the Class of 2019 on earning their degrees! You are now members of a diverse and successful network of RCC alumni. 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.

As our graduates mark the official end of the academic year, and I have time to reflect on our endeavors, I find that this year has been so successful, that it’s impossible to summarize all of our accomplishments in one succinct list. From the Math Department’s presentation on co-requisite education at the 2019 League for Innovation in the Community College’s Innovations Conference in New York City, to two of our students being named to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society’s All-Massachusetts Team, to the Leventhal Award we received from A Better City in recognition of our Green Energy Leadership, there’s so much to be proud of.

In this edition of the RCC Gazette, you will learn more about some of our achievements over the past year. I am particularly excited for you to read about our robust visual and performing arts programs, to learn about new study abroad opportunities for students and faculty, and to meet our new staff while also helping to celebrate the careers of some of our tenured faculty.

Throughout this edition of the RCC Gazette, I hope that you enjoy learning about what makes RCC special. And, I hope that you’ll visit us throughout the summer. Our 5th annual Roxbury Rocks Music Festival is scheduled for July 20, 2019—I look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you, again, for your continued support.

SAVE THE DATE!

5TH ANNUAL ROXBURY ROCKS MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY JULY 20, 2019 12PM TO 4PM

ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MORE INFORMATION: WWW.RCC.MASS.EDU

FREE ICE CREAM, POPCORN, FACE PAINTING, BALLOON ANIMALS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.
Questions regarding Roxbury Community College’s curriculum, programs, or admissions can be directed to 617-427-0060.

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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 citizenship and success in a changing world.

Statement of Publication
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Chief Human Resources/Affirmative Action Officer & Title IX Coordinator, 857-701-1290, Administration Building, Room 313
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Year in Review

Roxbury Community College is host to countless cultural programs, student activities and civic engagements each year. This year, we were pleased to host two inaugurations, an international cultural celebration, visits from government officials, STEM month events, open houses, and much, much more. These photos capture some, but not all, of the engaging events hosted at the College throughout 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. RCC students and staff gathered in the Student Commons for International Celebration Day on November 6th, which was hosted by the International Student Club.

2. Under the guidance of Professor Nasreen Latif, students and staff celebrated Earth Day by planting seeds and landscaping the RCC Civic Learning Garden.

3. RCC’s STEM department was pleased to set up an interactive display at the Go Higher! fair, hosted by RCC, the Department of Higher Education, and State Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz.

4. On February 11th, RCC co-hosted the second annual “Solutions Series” with Black Economic Council of Massachusetts. The TedX-style talk allowed community members to continue a conversation on successful models that businesses and nonprofits have employed in addressing many of the systemic issues that affect communities of color.

5. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley hosted her Community Swearing-In Ceremony at the Media Arts Center on January 12th, during which she received a framed collage from Dr. Valerie Roberson.

6. In January 2019, Congressman Joe Kennedy III visited RCC and learned about our Health Sciences Programs while receiving a tour of the campus from Dr. Valerie Roberson.
As part of Black History Month, Historian and Lecturer Clennon L. King shared stories and images of over 30 locales in Boston frequented by Coretta Scott and Martin Luther King Jr. in the early 1950s.

Suffolk County DA Rachael Rollins with Dr. Valerie Roberson, at DA Rollins’ swearing-in ceremony, which was hosted at the Media Arts Center on January 2nd.

In February, at “The Poetry of You: An Ode to Black Women Poets,” students paid homage to female Black poets, including Phillis Wheatley and Jessica Care Moore.

The second week of February, RCC hosted the Black History Month Vendor Fair, where over a dozen local vendors sold and displayed handmade crafts and other products.

In October, RCC celebrated STEM week by hosting multiple demonstrations in the Student Commons, including a DNA imaging demo.

As one of the many student-organized activities held during the year, RCC’s Political Action Club hosted a mixer where students learned more about club activities and enjoyed a set from a local DJ.
New Faculty and Coursework Revive Arts Programs at RCC

Roxbury Community College has long served as the community’s home for arts and civic engagement. The Media Arts Center has hosted plays, comedy shows, panel discussions, community forums, and inaugurations for the past 25 years. Furthermore, the first strategic directive in RCC’s 2015-2020 Strategic Plan calls for the College to “engage the community as its home for civic, cultural, and innovative thought.”

To fulfill this directive and under the leadership of Dr. Kimberly Rogers, Associate Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, the College’s visual and performing arts programs have expanded significantly over the past year.

In addition to reviving courses in photography and modern dance, the College has added one new full-time performing arts faculty member, Joshua Ziemann, and seven part-time faculty members across multiple disciplines of art, music, and dance. The College was pleased to offer 20 sections of acting, music, visual arts and dance in both the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 semesters.

As part of this arts revival, the Division of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences now hosts an arts showcase at the end of each semester. The Fall Arts Showcase featured performances by modern dance students and music students, and musical performances by faculty members. The Spring Arts Showcase featured modern dance students, vocal performance workshop students, spoken-word student performances, and performances by music and dance faculty.

Although RCC’s performing and arts programs have grown significantly over the past year, the faculty and College leadership are looking to add new courses and performance opportunities to further cement a commitment to the arts.
After graduating from Boston Arts Academy, Steven Leen enrolled at Lesley University. Based on the recommendation of his partner, he decided to enroll in some summer classes at RCC, as a way to earn general education credits while saving money. He took two classes, an art appreciation course, and a science course, then decided to transfer to RCC full-time.

Steven started his full-time studies at RCC in Fall 2018 and decided to take two performing arts courses: Modern Dance with Sharon Shakur and Acting with Damon Krometis. This past semester, he enrolled in Painting.

Steven is using his time at RCC to explore which art medium is best for him, whether it be performing or visual arts. “There’s always a stigma around community college, and especially arts classes and arts programs at community colleges,” says Steven. “My experience has proved this stigma wrong. My teachers were amazing; they were so committed to the arts and furthering my education.”

For Steven, his personal connection to course content has been of particular note. “Being queer, I’ve found that I’m most comfortable expressing myself through the arts. In my theater class last semester, I had a final project where I explored a specific scene that related to something traumatic from my past, that I never had the opportunity to explore. Through the final project, I was able to process my feelings and understand how the situation was impacting me. That’s what is great about the arts—there’s always a personal connection. Even with dance—I can be in dance class and forget about everything else.”

Like Professor Ziemann, Steven knows that “arts and performance classes prepare you for the real world. You learn how to be comfortable speaking in public, while also teaching social skills.”

Professor Joshua Ziemann had a passion for music from a young age: He started playing the piano when he was five years old and became serious about performing in middle school. After studying percussion at Illinois Wesleyan University and earning his master’s in percussion from Boston Conservatory, he committed to a career as a performing artist.

“One of the most important moments in my career was shortly after grad school,” said Professor Ziemann. “When I realized that if I pick up gigs constantly and master my understanding of the music industry, I can do this.”

After enrolling in a post-Master certificate program at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Professor Ziemann began teaching college classes in music. Before joining RCC’s faculty, Professor Ziemann taught at Quincy College, Emmanuel College, and Bunker Hill Community College.

At RCC, Professor Ziemann teaches Piano, Music Appreciation, Introduction to Music and World Music. He is currently developing a class in music business, which he hopes to offer in Spring 2020.

“My teaching philosophy is geared to the idea that almost any problem can be solved if you exercise your creativity. It is our greatest asset as human beings. You can use creativity to overcome any obstacle.”

Professor Ziemann strongly believes that visual and performing arts classes help prepare students for success in a variety of fields. “The arts sharpen your language skills, your critical thinking, and even your math,” he says. “By enrolling in an arts class, you are getting better at math without taking a math class; you are getting better at language without taking a language class. Theater gives you confidence and helps you speak in public, which is essential for success in the field of business. Education in the arts prepares you to be engaged and confident in a variety of settings.”

Professor Ziemann is currently working to form a cohesive group to perform music. He is also looking for students who are interested in performing or helping to create a “music culture at RCC” in other ways. He hopes to continue to work on growing the performing arts curriculum and featuring live music in the student commons.
For many of our students, pursuing a college education can be life-changing. For a select few, there is the opportunity to get even more out of the experience by studying abroad. An opportunity to study abroad provides our students with exposure to different systems of governance and education, offering them a broader understanding of the world. The immersive nature of an international experience allows students the opportunity to use another language every day among native speakers.

In order to prepare for an upcoming trip to France, for instance, Kimberly Thomas is using the app DuoLingo to brush up on French. While traveling the halls between classes Thomas noticed a flyer advertising the new study abroad opportunity at RCC. Intimidated but undeterred, Thomas worked on perfecting her application essay. She even applied for a passport ahead of being accepted, a sheer act of her faith.

For her first trip abroad, Thomas looks forward to becoming acquainted with a new culture. “I am sure even the air will smell different.” She sees our emerging studying abroad program as a chance to benefit from a new, more global perspective on citizenship in the digital era. Her trip to France is an opportunity to learn how to foster community in various cultures; and learning new avenues for digital connection is an invaluable resource to a Criminal Justice major.

The trip will take place July 5-19 and a field activity is on the agenda each day. Studying in Normandy empowers students, like Thomas, to take greater responsibility for learning outcomes than they may be used to here in their home country. Outside the classroom, students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the local culture—enjoying the food, festivities, and customs of France.

Last spring, Raziel Perez became one of RCC’s first study-abroad participants. His 10-day visit, made possible by the Office of Science & Technology, Embassy of France in the U.S. and the French Embassy in New York, focused on engineering and transportation innovation in Paris.
A Global Journey:
PROFESSOR NUNOTTE ZAMA (CLASS OF 1998)

Professor Nunotte Zama was one of 12 U.S. educators invited to the Palestine American Research Center, this past May, for a seminar on education and development. This group of professors from across the nation visited universities there to foster collaboration. During the trip, Zama visited Palestinian universities, research institutes, cultural institutions, and historic cities. During their stay, the cohort also met with Palestinian colleagues to learn about the region and build relationships with Palestinian colleagues and institutions.

Professor Zama sees the journey as an avenue for improving her skills as an educator by exposing her to more perspectives that are global. “One of my main goals as an educator is to constantly be learning and acquiring additional skills and perspectives so that I can utilize them to offer my students a well-rounded curriculum. My ultimate objective is to facilitate the creation of a partnership between Palestinian educational institutions and Roxbury Community College, to enable student exchange opportunities and fellowships for faculty.”

Professor Zama, who came to the U.S. from Haiti, was among the first class to graduate from RCC’s current campus, receiving an Associates of Science in Computer Programming (Class of 1988). After commencement, she stayed with RCC, working within the IT department while continuing her education at the University of Massachusetts. In 1991 she earned her BS in Management there and took on a new role at RCC, as Systems Analyst. It was not until her acceptance to a law school in Florida that Zama was faced a decision to part ways with the College.

When Zama arrived at the University of Miami School of Law in Coral Gables, Florida, it was just two days shy of Hurricane Andrew, then the most destructive hurricane to hit Florida. Zama did not allow that storm or any school-related obstacles to dissuade her from pursuing the Juris Doctor, which she earned in 1995. That same year, she passed the Massachusetts bar exam on her first try, crediting that accomplishment on prayer and study; she’s been a lawyer in good standing ever since.

Since obtaining her law degree, her storied career has taken her from the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the Organization States and the Consulate General of the Republic of Haiti’s Office back to the classroom at RCC. Only this time around, she is on the teaching end.

“I never really left RCC, it’s the only school I call my school,” says Zama. She credits the College with being a place where students can see themselves, with faculty and staff who look like them, have similar stories, and provide inspiration, in addition to quality education. “At RCC, you are connected to people who believe in you.”

In her continued service to RCC, Zama is presently a Professor of Criminal Justice and serves as the coordinator for the Criminal Justice Program. Zama balances that work with practicing law as an immigration and family law advocate, mostly on a pro bono basis. She is now yet another member of the proud RCC alumni network to represent the College both at home and abroad.

“My ultimate objective is to facilitate the creation of a partnership between Palestinian educational institutions and Roxbury Community College, to enable student exchange opportunities and fellowships for faculty.”
— Nunotte Zama
MEET OUR FACULTY

JAVAD MOULAI: 39 YEARS AT RCC

Professor Javad Moulai has been a constant presence at Roxbury Community College (RCC) for 39 years. Ask any faculty member, staff member or student to describe Professor Moulai, and they’ll undoubtedly start with his ever-present smile, and his optimistic and friendly personality. This positive presence, coupled with his extensive knowledge of physics and engineering, has helped to turn RCC’s STEM programs into the force they are today.

In high school in Iran, Professor Moulai decided that he wanted to pursue a career in physics. Professor Moulai was influenced by his physics teacher, “a good teacher who connected with his students on a human level.” He applied to colleges in Iran as a physics major; and, he’s never regretted his decision.

After completing his undergraduate studies in Iran, Professor Moulai came to the United States to earn a Ph.D. in physics. His initial plan was to return to Iran after graduate studies; but “the world changed,” so he ended up staying in the U.S.

While completing his Ph.D. at MIT, Professor Moulai found himself in need of additional money. So, he taught Computer Architecture at Wentworth Institute of Technology, Engineering and Calculus at Northeastern, and Electronics at RCC. Professor Moulai quickly realized that his students at RCC were working incredibly hard to improve their lives—for themselves, and their families. He connected to their effort and felt he was helping people who really wanted to help themselves. Ever since, RCC has been his home.

Upon completing his graduate studies, Professor Moulai received two job offers—one from RCC, one from DigiLab. The salary was twice as high at DigiLab. After considering both offers, Professor Moulai decided that “happiness is more than money,” so he accepted the job at RCC.

Since starting at RCC in 1980, Professor Moulai has seen the College transform—and, he’s been instrumental in this transformation. Back when RCC was at Huntington Avenue, Professor Moulai created the first Computer Science Program and the first Engineering Program (around 1986), which is something he’s very proud of.

Never one to shy away from new trends and new technology, Professor Moulai was also involved in creating coursework for the Radiologic Technology program, when the program was first established. “The dean approached me to see if I wanted to teach the first technology course for the program,” says Moulai. “So, of course I said yes. I taught the first technology course for the Radiologic Technology Program—I had some background, which helped. But, I’ve never shied away from teaching new ideas.”

Furthermore, Professor Moulai has been involved in helping the startup efforts for the new Smart Building Technology Program. He met with his colleagues at Mass Maritime to learn more about this new technology and immediately recognized the opportunity to RCC students. He participated in workshops to learn more about this emerging field, and, he’s thrilled that the College has hired an Executive Director to oversee the program’s development (to learn more about this program and the new executive director, see pages 10–11).

However, none of these outstanding academic achievements is at the top of Professor Moulai’s personal list of accomplishments. Instead, his top accomplishment is his ability to connect with people. “I have always tried to connect with people at the College. I think most people like me. That is a very pleasant thought. Every night, I go to bed and I think ‘I didn’t upset anyone today’—that’s very important to me.”

Although Professor Moulai is retiring, he still intends to stay on as an adjunct to teach one course each semester. His other passion is theater, and, he recently joined a company as an actor. In a recent production, he played “a devil of a person,” and he really enjoyed playing the part. He plans to continue working with this theater troupe, and exploring his other passions. He also wants to be more active at the state level, advocating for public higher education as part of various lobbying organizations.
MEET OUR ALUMNA

SHANA BRYANT (AA, ’12)

When the Rachael Rollins campaign needed a point person for operations for the inauguration ceremony hosted at RCC in January 2019, they called Shana Bryant Consulting. Just three weeks shy of the big event, Bryant, Class of 2012, was tasked with managing volunteers, communicating with vendors, and general management for an event that saw 700 attendees at the Media Arts Center and the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center.

Working out logistics comes naturally to Bryant, but she did not always view her expertise in operations as part of an income-generating skill set. “As a team mom, I never understood why we didn’t know who was bringing the oranges to each game,” Bryant says of her natural attention to detail. Bryant's frustration with other team parents' cursory handling of simple tasks showed her attention to detail is not second nature to everyone; it is her own unique gift.

Being detail-oriented is also what allowed Bryant to earn her associates degree. When Bryant initially enrolled at RCC, her son was in the first grade. For several years, she balanced motherhood with pursuing her degree, without fully committing to her studies. Bryant watched as her son grew older and her own father took steps toward completing his degree through a program at Tufts University. According to Bryant, “2008 -2012 was a time of introspection. I kept telling myself I’m going to finish this.”

Realizing she did not want to be in college at the same time as her now high-school-aged child, Bryant made finishing her degree a priority. “Success is you executing something you said you were going to do,” Bryant shared. Sacrificing nights and weekends, she plowed through her degree requirements in order to receive her AA in Health Careers. Through that experience, Bryant learned that setting smaller goals is the stairway to accomplishing your larger goals. After earning her associates degree, she set a new goal and went on to complete her bachelor’s degree in Political Science at UMass Boston, just two years later.

The strategy that allowed Bryant to earn her degrees allows her to successfully manage each event; Bryant listens to her clients’ vision and works alongside them to be accountable to the event timeline and to ensure that all deliverables are executed properly. As an entrepreneur and founder/CEO of Shana Bryant Consulting, Bryant has become passionate about helping others to achieve their goals.

Since co-chairing the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College's Boston Area Chapter's annual Blueprint Middle & High School Conference in 2015 and again in 2016, Bryant made significant strides in her career as a Task Master. From the Women’s Pipeline for Change and Chica Project to the Greater Boston Morehouse College Alumni Association (GBMCAA) and travel retreats with Linda’s “Wellness Warriors,” Bryant’s clients are accustomed to her knack for creating impactful events.

At the end of the Rollins event, Bryant remained in the Green Room making a final assessment. It dawned on her then that for the first time she was on campus not just as an alumnus but also as pivotal part of one of the campus’ most historic events. She had become a Task Master for her alma mater.
Introducing Frank Mruk FAIA, RIBA

THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RCC’S SMART BUILDING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Roxbury Community College is committed to developing associate degree programs that meet both current and forecasted workforce demands in the city of Boston and the state of Massachusetts. Currently, one of the state’s most pressing workforce needs is technicians who are trained in smart building technology. With the help of an active advisory board, RCC has been developing a curriculum for a new Smart Building Technology program over the past two years. In April 2019, Frank Mruk, FAIA, RIBA joined RCC to spearhead the program from development to launch, and beyond.

Mruk is an architect and strategist with extensive experience in sustainability and higher education. Before joining RCC, Mr. Mruk taught at the School of Visual Arts, the Parsons School of Design, New York University; and, he served as associate dean of the School of Architecture and Design at the New York Institute of Technology. Mr. Mruk also has extensive experience in the private sector, having consulted for Apple and Goldman Sachs. His board appointments include the American Institute of Architects, the Association for Strategic Planning, and Habitats for Music.

Mr. Mruk always had a passion for green energy and sustainability, but it took off when he worked on the U.S. Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon competition, a collegiate tournament, comprising 10 contests that challenges student teams to design and build highly efficient and innovative buildings powered by renewable energy.

“I collaborated with students constructing 800-square-foot buildings on the Mall in Washington, DC,” says Mr. Mruk. “When you think of green energy and sustainability in terms of a competition using technology and innovation to optimize efficiency, sustainability and resiliency it becomes very exciting.”

Although Mr. Mruk only recently joined the College, he already has a strong vision for RCC’s Smart Building Technology Program.

“We are at a time similar to 1999 when the automobile industry transitioned from needing a workforce of mechanics to needing a workforce of technicians as cars became more dependent on computers. The building and facilities management industry is making this transition right now. There is currently a lack of the educational and professional infrastructures needed to prepare these technicians. I see community colleges, specifically RCC, as the most efficient means of filling this void.”

To propel RCC’s Smart Building Technology Program from the development stage to the launch stage, Mr. Mruk plans to continue working hand-in-hand with the Program’s Advisory Board. “The Board consists of world-class leaders in industry, government, and education. They are our greatest strength and have been helping with curriculum development, design of the program, relationship-building, obtaining grants, and more. I really cannot say enough about this group. They have helped crystallize the vision for this program while acquiring all the resources needed to make it successful.”

As Mr. Mruk sees the immediate impact this program will have on Boston’s workforce and the immediate community, he believes the program has the potential to serve as a national model “for a new kind of lean, agile, stackable degree which is more nimble and student/industry-friendly.”

**GET IN TOUCH:** Want to learn more about the SBT Program? Contact Executive Director Frank Mruk, FAIA, RIBA at fmruk@rcc.mass.edu or 857-701-1564.
Senator Ed Markey Visit
April 16, 2019

Senator Ed Markey visited RCC on April 16th to help launch the Smart Building Technology Program. He began his visit with a campus tour led by President Valerie Roberson, highlighting the College’s recently completed energy upgrades, which include a 3,000-panel solar canopy above Parking Lot #1, 115 geothermal wells, and a new Energy Management System. After the tour, RCC Vice President of Administration & Finance Kevin Hepner presented an overview of energy savings, followed by a presentation on RCC’s innovative Smart Business Technology Program by Executive Director Frank Mruk, FAIA, RIBA. Senator Markey also spoke with RCC students and members of the SBT Advisory Board, at the end of his visit.

SMART BUILDING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD:

Skanska, Boston Medical Center, Automated Logic Corporation, the City of Boston, Building Technology Engineers Inc, EMCOR Facilities Services, APA Inc., MIT, Hancock Software, Johnson Controls, Ever-source, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Arup Engineering, Madison Park, Synergy, Quock Associates, Mass Maritime, Siemens, National Grid, Harvard Art Museums, CBRE/Heery, Broad Institute, Stealth Athletic, and TSK Energy Solutions.
Meet the Staff:

MISHAWN DAVIS-EYENE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

RCC is pleased to announce that Mishawn Davis-Eyene has joined our team to oversee and coordinate gifts to the College, as executive director of Development.

Mishawn M. Davis-Eyene is a higher education professional with over 19 years of experience. She earned her master’s in management from Harvard University and earned her bachelor’s in liberal arts from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

She comes to RCC from Quinsigamond Community College, where she oversaw recruitment and outreach for credit and non-credit programs. She has previous experience in financial services, and built alumni networks at prior institutions. Davis-Eyene has focused her career on promoting community colleges. Her mission is to keep the dream of open-access to college a reality, even as the higher education costs continue to rise.

“I am excited to help ensure that our community is included in this booming Boston economy,” says Davis-Eyene. “We are here to equip students with the skills needed to thrive in careers that are future-proof.”

After settling into her new position at RCC, Davis-Eyene has identified the following areas as the top funding priorities for the College.

- **Scholarship Funds** These funds ensure that our students will have little or no debt upon graduation.
- **Academic Program Support** New, innovative programs to prepare students for the careers of tomorrow; gifts are needed to continue this work.
- **Support of Facilities** RCC’s campus needs continual upgrades in order to offer the best experience for our students; gifts are required for RCC to remain a state-of-the-art institution.

**Success**

Since Davis-Eyene has joined the RCC family, she has played an integral role in successfully raising over $500,000 for the new Smart Building Technology (SBT) Program, including securing gifts from various organizations and industry leaders in the community. Because of this funding, RCC will offer the SBT Program this fall!

**Why Donate?**

- You will help provide scholarships that increase graduates.
- You will prevent tuition costs from rising.
- You will give back to the community.
- You will ensure access to quality education locally.

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INTERESTED IN BECOMING A FUNDER OR LEARNING MORE? FOLLOW THESE STEPS!

1. **Set-up a campus visit** by calling 857-701-1243 or emailing mdeyene@rcc.mass.edu.
2. **Work with the Development Office** to identify the area of need you will support.
3. **Determine your best option for giving.** There are multiple opportunities to support RCC through giving. Contact the Development Office to learn more.
Thanks to a collaboration between Cooperative Education, the Student Government Association and the Library, RCC recently welcomed Dr. Tamika N. Jacques, Ed.D. to campus. As the author of *A Brown Girls Guide to Employment and Networking*, Dr. Jacques facilitated a conversation with our students on the importance of networking as a means of access for women of color. As a highly sought after speaker, Jacques, of Fruitful Vision Enterprises (FVE), teaches goal setting and proven strategies for leveling-up your career.

According to Dr. Jacques, 70 percent of hires are through word of mouth and your next opportunity is likely to come through someone you know; challenging each of us to look at the resources in our personal networks. She encouraged audience members to do things like join professional organizations and write detailed notes on the backs of business cards to remember personal details about the contact.

Author visits, like that of Dr. Jacques, have a profound influence on our students—particularly struggling or reluctant readers of English as second language (ESOL)—by creating connections with the written word in engaging, personal ways. Of her time with RCC’s students, Dr. Jacques says, “Of all the organizations and groups I have visited, RCC was the most engaging. The students asked poignant questions, which showed I was in the room with future doctors, lawyers, business owners, lead actresses and certified public accountants.” When women of color, like Dr. Jacques, emphasize the importance of goal setting, discipline, and perseverance, it reinforces for our students the dedication necessary to succeed in school and life.
A Commitment to Community Advancement

AN OVERVIEW OF RCC’S LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMS

RCC’s Office of Lifelong Learning strives to enrich and empower the Greater Roxbury Community through high-quality courses, programming, and events. This commitment to community advancement drives program development: From ESOL and HiSET/GED courses to first-time homebuyer workshops, a strong desire to positively affect community members of all ages is the driving force behind Lifelong Learning programs. Here are some highlights from the past year.

COMMUNITY FORUM

FEBRUARY FORUM ON DIVERSITY IN EXAM SCHOOLS

Ensuring diversity and equal access to high-quality education is an essential component of community improvement. Accordingly, RCC hosted a Community Forum on February 28th, focused on diversity in Boston’s exam schools. This forum was the collaborative result of the incredible work of several groups, including but not limited to: Lawyers for Civil Rights Boston, Boston NAACP, ACLU Massachusetts, and Massachusetts Advocates for Children. We were fortunate to hear remarks from Councilor Kim Janey, Boston City Council, along with public policy proposals from the Lawyers for Civil Rights.
We were proud to collaborate with Our Village Initiative (OVI) on two programs offered during the past calendar year.

**THE BUILDING BLACK WEALTH SERIES**
It’s no secret there is a vast disparity of wealth amongst races in the greater Boston area. The Building Black Wealth Series, presented on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, was created to take the issue from conversation to action by sharing strategies and concrete steps people of color can take to increase their net worth. All are welcome to attend! Visit [www.RCCWealth.Eventbrite.com](http://www.RCCWealth.Eventbrite.com) to learn more and RSVP.

**HOMEBUYERS SEMINAR**
OVI and Financial Education Associates partnered to present Homebuying 101 at RCC. This course empowers individuals to think strategically and take the first steps towards owning their own home. Participants gain access to financial assistance programs, Mass Housing Partnership’s ONE Mortgage, MassHousing mortgages, home ownership lotteries, and first-time homebuyer mortgages.

**KIDS TO COLLEGE PROGRAMS**

**LEGO ROBOTICS**
Our LEGO Robotics program runs each fall and spring semester and is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. This program is made possible through a partnership between the Timothy Smith Network (TSN) and Northeastern University’s (NU) First-Year Engineering students. The 10-week program culminates in a LEGO Robotics showcase, where kids from all TSN labs across the city compete against one another.

**KIDS’ CODING CLUB**
Our Spring Coding Club is 8 weeks long and geared towards kids ages 7–11. Kids learn the basics of coding for designing their own games — our kids aren’t just consumers, but creators! Our partner, Colaberry, sponsors this club.
Enroll at RCC for Fall 2019 Courses

As you can see, RCC is a college on the move—we’ve got great new facilities, amazing academic programs, a wealth of transfer opportunities, and more! Fall 2019 classes begin on Wednesday, September 4, 2019.

Interested in becoming a student? You can start the registration process now!

You get a head start by applying online at 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 three special programs to help finance your studies at RCC:

- **TUITION-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PLAN FOR BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADS**
- **BOSTON BRIDGE**
- **THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITMENT**

All of these programs have specific criteria for participation. Even if you don’t meet the criteria for these programs, you may be eligible for scholarship funding! Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 857-701-1220 or Finaid@rcc.mass.edu to learn more!

YOUR FUTURE IS OUR FOCUS

ENROLL FOR FALL CLASSES NOW!

**CLASSES START WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019**

VISIT www.rcc.mass.edu/fall19

CALL 857-701-1200

Get a head start by applying online! Learn more at www.rcc.mass.edu
Lifelong Learning

Where learning never gets old. Whether you’re 8 or 80, find something for the whole family!

- Community ESOL English Classes - Starts Sept 4
  * Contact us for testing dates.
- HiSET® /GED Classes - Starts Sept 4
- Entrepreneurship Seminar: Start Your Own Business - Starts Sept 16
- Conversational Spanish - Starts Sept 9
- Home Staging & Redesign - Starts Sept 12
- Grant Writing: Fundamentals - Starts Sept 10
  Intermediate - Starts Sept 12
- Public Speaking & Presentation Skills - Starts Sept 16
- Business Communications - Starts Sept 12
- Coming Soon: Technology Pathways
  Microsoft Office Suite; QuickBooks
- TEAS Exam Prep
  - Starts Sept 9
    (Nursing/Health Admissions Exam)
- Building Black Wealth: FREE Financial Empowerment Series
  - July 10, Aug 14, Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11
- Timothy Smith Computer Lab
  Building 4, Room 103C offers Open-Access Hours. Call for more information.

Registered 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.

To register or for more information: call 857-701-1607 | email anichols@rcc.mass.edu | visit rcc.mass.edu/cwd

Upcoming Course Offerings
Check out our website at www.rcc.mass.edu/LL or contact us at (857) 701-1605 for more information.

Register Today!

Lifelong Learning
Email: 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 2019