

## To the Board:

My inauguration on April 5 as the ninth chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Boston was among the most humbling experiences of my life. The cover story of this report chronicles that memorable day, which, for me, accentuated the advent of UMass Boston 2.0, bolstered by a strong leadership team, a bold and thoughtful strategic plan, revitalized academic and administrative operations, and strong partnerships with Mayor Wu and the great City of Boston, and Governor Healey and her entire Administration.

Also in this report:

- In April, Rep. Stephen Lynch visited campus to announce a \$1M appropriation for UMass Boston to establish an Offshore Workforce Development Center. The appropriation enables UMass Boston to venture into a fertile new area of STEM education and help shape a pipeline of workforce-ready people in emerging fields like offshore wind, aquaculture, blue tech, and coastal resilience. (page 11)
- We were honored to welcome Attorney General Andrea Campbell to UMass Boston as the featured guest for a fireside chat on artificial intelligence (AI) and the serious risks AI systems pose to consumers – such as bias, lack of transparency, and threats to data privacy, all of which bear on the administration of justice. As we stand up the Paul English Applied Artificial Intelligence Institute, the conversation served as a reminder that UMass Boston’s engagement with AI will be multifaceted but driven by a commitment to providing students with the skills they need in tomorrow’s workforce. (page 7)
- With a view to promoting our Beacon Wellness Initiative, UMass Boston recently became the 26th university to adopt the Okanagan Charter, a framework of shared values that emphasize health and well-being as a core aspiration of campus life, human life, and the life of the planet. Adoption of the charter calls on UMass Boston to embed health promotion into all aspects of our work, policies, and campus culture. (page 11)

I trust you will appreciate this report on our progress.

—Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco



*Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and Governor Maura Healey on stage during the April 5 inauguration ceremony*

## Focusing on Transformation, UMass Boston Celebrates Chancellor Suárez-Orozco’s Leadership

Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco was formally installed as the ninth chancellor of UMass Boston in a ceremony in the Clark Athletic Center on April 5, with dignitaries including Governor Maura Healey, UMass President Martin Meehan, UMass Board of Trustees Chair Stephen Karam, Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler, and Congressman Stephen Lynch.

As Chancellor Suárez-Orozco stood among his faculty, students, colleagues, family, and friends, he looked back at where he came from and how it has made him the scholar and administrator he is today.

“Today, serving as chancellor of UMass Boston is the job I have prepared for all my life. In our Beacons—so many of whom are first-generation college students, speak English as a second language, and come from abroad to study in America—I see myself a half-century ago,” he said. “As I look back, I see my journey as a version of a uniquely American story, of second chances and the life-changing power of a public research university. My journey affirms the claim that education is a *vital public good*, essential for flourishing, engagement, and above all, giving back.”

Continued on pg. 2

## Develop First-rate Infrastructure



*(From left) UMBA Executive Director Barbara Kroncke, Vice Chancellor Kathleen Kirleis, Trustee Mary Burns, UMass President Martin Meehan, Chancellor Suárez-Orozco, Trustee Chair Stephen Karam, and UMBA Deputy Director David Mullen cut the ribbon on the new campus Quad.*

### Chancellor Cuts Ribbon on New Quad, UMass Boston 2.0

Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and the university community came together on inauguration day, April 5, to celebrate another transformative milestone for UMass Boston, officially unveiling the new campus Quad, the centerpiece of UMass Boston 2.0. The sustainable green Quad is the culmination of 15 years of planning, and it includes sloping green lawns, ADA-compliant pathways, a new basketball court, and parking lot.

The chancellor was joined by UMass President Martin Meehan, UMass Building Authority Chair Mary Burns, UMass Board of Trustees Chair Stephen Karam, and Barbara Kroncke, executive director of the UMass Building Authority, to cut the ribbon on the long-awaited campus green space.

“In so many ways—symbolically, aesthetically, functionally—at universities across our country, the Quad is the beating heart of the campus, a place of study, reflection, discovery, collaboration, socializing, and fun,” Chancellor Suárez-Orozco said to the audience gathered at the center of the six-acre parcel where four walkways converge. “It is glorious that Beacons will be able to enjoy this Quad as their own.”

The Quad replaces an expansive central concrete plaza, originally built when the campus first opened in 1974, that sat atop two floors of garages. Critical structural problems led to the closing of the parking garages in 2006. Construction of the Quad required demolishing the central plaza and outdated Science Center—an area the size of three football fields.

Crushed concrete and bricks from the Science Center were used to construct the base of the Quad, on top of which another 35,000 cubic yards of materials and soil were used for the planting of more than 500 trees and thousands of shrubs and plants. The new Quad also features more than 50 picnic tables and 30 benches.

## Cover Story (cont.)

The event also featured video messages from dignitaries and colleagues, such as Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and His Holiness Pope Francis, who appointed Suárez-Orozco as an Academician of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

President Meehan called Chancellor Suárez-Orozco a “leader for these times.” “UMass Boston, under Chancellor Suárez-Orozco’s leadership, is focused on the problems that confront us, making major contributions to areas including the environment, health and health disparities, cancer therapy, and exploring the emerging world of AI,” he said. “UMass Boston has become an indispensable educational resource for this region and far beyond.”

Watch the inauguration on UMass Boston’s YouTube channel.



## Maintain and Improve Affordability and Access



UMass Boston Admissions team hosted a celebratory event at Bunker Hill Community College this spring.

### UMass Boston Celebrates BHCC Transfer Students at New Admitted Students Celebration

This spring, members of the UMass Boston Admissions team hosted a celebratory event at Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) to welcome future Beacons to the UMass Boston community.

The event was the first of its kind and provided admitted UMass Boston transfer students with the opportunity to ask questions, meet fellow new Beacons, and have some fun. The lively celebration featured a DJ, UMass Boston swag, and representatives from several departments including Financial Aid, Immigrant Student Services, Transfer Admissions, the Asian American Resources Office, Student Support Services, and more.

“Every department that attended had students they met with to address questions, concerns, and provide reassurance on a smooth transition to campus,” said Anne McDonough, senior associate director of transfer admissions at UMass Boston.

With over 150 students in attendance, the admitted student event was a great success.

“Transfer students are not always able to visit UMass Boston for a campus tour or Open House event, and by us coming to them, we were able to be more accessible to their questions and display our commitment to not just transfer students, but BHCC transfer students,” said McDonough.

Each year, UMass Boston receives more than 600 applications, and enrolls approximately 350 BHCC students. Those numbers make the university’s partnership and collaboration with BHCC impactful.

## Improve Delivery of Administration and IT Services



Police Chief Stacey Lloyd

### Stacey Lloyd Named UMass Boston’s New Chief of Police

Stacey Lloyd has been named the next director of public safety/chief of police, effective May 1, 2024. Chief Lloyd has served the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) for more than 20 years, most recently as a captain with bureau chief responsibilities, also advising the superintendent and deputy superintendent in matters of equal opportunity employment.

Previously, she supervised special projects, completed updates to standard operating procedures, established partnerships with institutions of higher education to facilitate continuing education of NJSP members, and served multiple NJSP branches including the fiscal control bureau, the selection process unit, the facility and asset control bureau, the recruiting unit, and general road duty.

In addition to her law enforcement service, Chief Lloyd is a passionate student and teacher. She has earned a doctor of philosophy in leadership, a master of science in public administration, and a bachelor of arts in criminal justice and has taught classes at Howard University, Monmouth University, and Caldwell University on systemic racism, classism, gender discrimination, women in the criminal justice system, and victimology.

## Renew the Faculty



Rosanna DeMarco (second from right) celebrates with fellow Living Legend Award recipients.

### A 'Living Legend': Associate Provost Rosanna DeMarco Honored by the American Nurses Association Massachusetts

UMass Boston Associate Provost and Professor of Nursing Rosanna DeMarco, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been named a Living Legend in Massachusetts Nursing by the American Nurses Association Massachusetts.

The Living Legend Award recognizes a nurse who has made significant lifetime contributions to the profession of nursing on a state, national, and/or international level. Recipients are nurses who serve as an inspiration to others in their profession, and have exhibited creativity and innovation in their practice, blazing trails for other nurses to follow.

Since 2013, DeMarco has held numerous positions at UMass Boston. Currently an associate provost at UMass Boston, she previously served as the nursing chair, associate dean for academic affairs, and interim dean in the university's Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences. She is recognized nationally and internationally for her outstanding transdisciplinary community-engaged research, scholarship, and community service. Her program of research and teaching includes the use of community participatory action research to identify culturally relevant and gender-sensitive prevention interventions for women at risk and living with HIV infection. She also studies nursing workplace psychological safety.

### New Book Offers Compassionate Perspective on Family Planning in a Climate Crisis

UMass Boston Associate Professor Meghan Elizabeth Kallman of the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development has debuted a new book exploring how the climate crisis is affecting family planning, parenting, and political action. The book is co-authored by climate activist Josephine Ferorelli.

*The Conceivable Future: Parenting Families and Taking Action in the Age of Climate Crisis* is a no-nonsense and compassionate guide to taking practical steps toward meaningful action in combating the climate crisis.

Kallman and Ferorelli offer informed perspectives on population, reproduction, and climate justice, exploring how these topics have various meanings all rooted in different histories of oppression and trauma. The book also debunks common misconceptions among these topics, including the harmful legacy of population control.

### ASLO Honors Robert Chen with the 2024 Ramón Margalef Award for Excellence in Education



Bob Chen

The Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) has named Robert F. (Bob) Chen, professor and interim dean of UMass Boston's School for the Environment, the recipient of the 2024 Ramón Margalef Award for Excellence in Education for his unparalleled enthusiasm, skills, and dedication to improving

young scientists' abilities in and commitment to broader impacts.

The Ramón Margalef Award for Excellence in Education is presented each year to recognize outstanding teaching and mentoring in the fields of limnology and oceanography.

"The Ramón Margalef Award for Excellence in Education recognizes Dr. Chen as a scientist who exemplifies how curiosity and ingenuity in educational programming can promote the understanding of science," ASLO President Pat Glibert said.

"He has energized a generation of scientists and educators to push the boundaries and innovate at the nexus of science and public engagement."

## Continue a Positive Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate



Queer Student Center leader Vansh Khokhani and Assistant Vice Chancellor Steven Neville unveil the new UMass Boston PRIDE logo.



Delegates from Hawai'i Community College visited UMass Boston for a day of cultural exchange and knowledge sharing.

### UMass Boston Celebrates LGBTQ+ Day, Unveils New Pride Logo

In May, the UMass Boston Queer Student Center, in partnership with various campus organizations, hosted an LGBTQ+ Day of Celebration, centered on the spirit of unity, pride, and hope. More than 100 students, faculty, and staff members came out to the celebration, which included an extensive resource fair, drag performances, and a luncheon.

The day also marked a historic moment for the university as campus leaders unveiled the first official UMass Boston Pride logo.

"We are not only witnessing a momentous occasion but also marking a new chapter in the evolution of our UMB," said Queer Student Center leader Vansh Khokhani. "The importance of this day cannot be overstated. This logo represents more than just a visual symbol—it embodies the collective identity, values, and aspirations of our university community. It reflects who we are, what we stand for, and where we are headed.

There has been a long history of support around the LGBTQ+ community on campus, dating back to 1974, when—almost as soon as this campus opened its doors—students founded the UMass Boston Gay People's Group, and the university opened a space for their meetings. The group became the Lesbian and Gay Center, which worked toward equality and social acceptance, and later helped to support its community during the AIDS epidemic.

### UMass Boston's Welcoming Ceremony Celebrated Diverse Indigenous Cultures

On March 20, UMass Boston's Native American Indigenous Studies Program (NAIS), the New England Institute for Native American Studies (INENAS), and the Native/Indigenous Student Association (NISA) hosted a delegation from Hawai'i Community College (Hawai'i CC) for a day-long visit to campus that included a cultural exchange, knowledge sharing, student performances, and more.

Assistant Professor of History and Director of the NAIS Program Maria John said the event came about when representatives from Hawai'i CC reached out to inquire about visiting UMass Boston to learn about how the university teaches Indigenous studies and serves the Indigenous student population.

The event included a welcoming ceremony, featuring dances and songs from UMass Boston students and the delegation, lunch, a campus tour, and a viewing of *Ohke Kah Nippi Mehquontamūonk* (Earth and Water Memory) a film created for UMass Boston in 2021 by a group of local Indigenous dancers.

John said the new connections built with Hawai'i Community College could lead to new pathways that can help expand learning opportunities for both student bodies and has inspired her to think more openly about what can be built moving forward.

## Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service



Mayor Wu speaks at the BPH Youth Mental Health Press Conference as Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and city officials look on.

### Mayor Wu Announces \$21 Million for Behavioral Health Services and Programming for Youth and Families

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston Public Health Commission, and Boston Public Schools (BPS) have announced \$21 million in transformative funding for mental and behavioral health programs and services to support the city's youth and families.

The funding includes a \$2.5 million grant to UMass Boston for "Transforming Boston Access to Mental Health," which focuses on preparing diverse, youth-facing practitioners to serve Boston communities. Fellows will receive education, training, and fieldwork and commit to practicing in Boston. Over three years, 185 students will be trained to serve 1,750 clients, with more than 850 clients being youths.

"Consistent with UMass Boston's antiracist, health-promoting ethos, our grant will prepare cohorts of culturally, linguistically, and racially diverse fellows to become human service and mental health providers," said UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco. "We share the mayor and commission and BPS's goals to advance racial justice, health equity, and more accessible behavioral health services so we can address the growing need for mental health resources among minoritized and marginalized youth."

A \$5.8 million grant for Boston Public Schools—in partnership with UMass Boston, Boston University, Brown University, and community partners—will launch "Project PROVIDE," preparing 200 school psychology, school counseling, and social work students to serve Boston youths over five years, including more than 46,000 students.



Pope Francis and Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco greet participants at the Vatican climate summit.

### Governor Healey, Mayor Wu, and Chancellor Address Vatican Climate Summit

In May, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, and UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco showcased the commonwealth and Boston's leadership on climate at a cross-disciplinary assembly of international government leaders, scientists, social scientists, and philanthropists who met at the Vatican. From May 15 to 17, 2024, the group examined innovative, paradigm-shifting solutions for climate resilience, focusing on the interrelated issues of human health and protecting the world's most vulnerable populations from the climate crisis.

The international conference was organized by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences under the leadership of Chancellor Suárez-Orozco and Ram Ramanathan, distinguished research professor at UC San Diego and climate solutions scholar at Cornell University, known for discovering the greenhouse effect of halocarbons. Pope Francis presided over the summit.

"Climate resilience requires cross-disciplinary partnerships among scientists, social scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs, as well as trans-disciplinary partnerships between science and community leaders," said Chancellor Suárez-Orozco.

## Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service (cont.)



*Alec Stubbs, Nir Eisikovits, and Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell discuss the rise of artificial intelligence (AI).*

## Attorney General and Applied Ethics Center Address AI Consumer Protection

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell joined Professor of Philosophy and Director of the UMass Boston Applied Ethics Center Nir Eisikovits for a fireside chat to discuss how artificial intelligence (AI) is influencing consumer and civil rights. Alec Stubbs, a postdoctoral fellow at the center, moderated the discussion, which covered the risks and benefits with the emergence of AI, biases in algorithms, and data protection.

Attorney General Campbell also provided guidance through an advisory on how state consumer protection and other laws apply to artificial intelligence and the tools that her office has, and will soon acquire, to properly address the impacts of AI.

“We have some of the most progressive and robust consumer protection laws in Massachusetts and in the country. Our discrimination laws are the same, and our data privacy laws are quite extensive and expansive,” Attorney General Campbell said. “...With these new forms of technology, our laws absolutely apply, and we have every intention of enforcing them.”

## Vanessa Kerry Urges Courageous Leadership in Addressing Global Climate-Health Crisis

The climate crisis is a health crisis, and every delay in addressing the issue is “going to cost us in lives,” global public health expert Vanessa Kerry told the crowd at the UMass Boston Chancellor’s Lecture Series on April 3.

“That is part of all of our jobs as academics, as politicians, as leaders, as citizens is to really understand that climate change should not be just measured in terms of degrees Celsius up or averted, but actually in lives lost and lives saved. That is really what we’re fundamentally talking about is our humanity and our survival,” she said.

Kerry sat down with Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco for a fireside chat to discuss the impacts of climate change on global public health in the Campus Center Ballroom in the second installment of the Chancellor’s Lecture Series: From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience, part of inauguration week events.

Kerry is the co-founder and CEO of Seed Global Health, a nonprofit organization focused on health systems’ strengthening and transformation through long-term investments and training of the health workforce. She is also a WHO Special Envoy for Climate Change and Health, and a critical care physician at Massachusetts General Hospital.

## Increase Endowment



Andre Titus '10, representing The Titus Foundation as a new member of the Founders' Circle, admires the university's new donor mural.

### New Donor Mural Unveiled at Record-breaking Celebration of Philanthropy

On April 4, the university hosted its annual Celebration of Philanthropy, a gala reception and dinner at the Campus Center honoring UMass Boston's donor community. With more than 250 registrants, this year's celebration was the largest in UMass Boston history.

A centerpiece of the event was the unveiling of a beautiful and prominently placed donor-recognition mural in the main concourse of the Campus Center. The mural—a flowing wave of modular blue tiles inscribed with donors' names—acclaims the 177 members of the university's Founders' Circle, benefactors with more than \$100,000 of lifetime giving to UMass Boston. The creation of the mural helped inspire 63 individuals and organizations to join the Founders' Circle this year, and 15 existing members to reach new levels of giving.

"It's a visual representation and a tangible representation of what the commitment looks like of people who are contributing to the UMass Boston community," said undergraduate student body president Kaushar Barejiya '24 in a video shown at the event. "And it is also the place where any student can go and stand there for 30 seconds and see what their tangible commitments could look like in the future when they are in the position to give back to the community."



Bob H'22 and Diane Hildreth receive a standing ovation after the announcement of their \$3 million gift to endow the director position at the Gastón Institute.

### \$3M Gift Endows Directorship of Gastón Institute

At an April gathering celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy's impactful Latino Leadership Opportunity Program (LLOP), Chancellor Suárez-Orozco announced a \$3 million gift to the institute—the largest donation in its history—from Boston philanthropists Bob H'22 and Diane Hildreth.

Their donation will permanently name and endow the directorship of the Gastón Institute, currently held by Associate Professor Lorna Rivera, and provide funding to support the institute's work.

A former economist for the International Monetary Fund and president and founder of International Bank Services, Bob Hildreth has also launched three nonprofits aimed at increasing access to college for lower-income Bostonians. The Hildreths are long-time supporters of the Gastón Institute, where they created, among other initiatives, the Robert Hildreth Latin America Internship Award to fund student travel and research in Latin American and Caribbean nations.

"As a first-generation college student, daughter of migrants, and an LLOP alumna (when it was a national program), I know that Bob and Diane Hildreth's support for the Gastón Institute's programs is truly transformational for UMass Boston students," said Rivera. "Words cannot express our gratitude for their generosity."

### Athletics and Recreation Host Inaugural Day of Giving

The UMass Boston Department of Athletics and Recreation launched its inaugural Beacons Day of Giving on April 10 and saw unprecedented success. For the first time, this 48-hour giving challenge saw all 19 of the UMass Boston athletic teams come together to collectively raise support to help enhance each program on campus.

In total, Beacon Athletics saw support from 1,068 donors with a combined impact totaling over \$64,000. The funds raised will help ensure that the students-athletes have a first-rate experience as they strive to become champions in competition, the classroom, and the community.

"The results of our Inaugural Beacons Day of Giving are outstanding!" said Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics and Recreation Dr. Jacqui Schuman. "Our entire department, including our head coaches, administrators, and student-athletes from all 19 teams, worked together in an energizing way that makes me proud to be a part of this community. I am extremely grateful to all the alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and friends of UMass Boston Athletics who contributed to further enhancing the student-athlete experience."



## Enhance the Learning Experience



UMass Boston students perform a scene in *Radium Girls*.

### UMass Boston Stages *Radium Girls*, the True Story of a Fight for Justice

This spring, UMass Boston Performing Arts and Director Carrie Ann Quinn staged *Radium Girls*, the story of a 10-year fight for justice after women hired at the U.S. Radium Company to paint fine details to make glow-in-the-dark clocks started falling ill.

The production, which was lauded for its important story, as well as its stunning performance, design, and execution, played to several sold-out audiences over a two-week run.

The play is an indictment of corporate greed over worker safety, but it is also a legal drama depicting the women's herculean battle in courtrooms and the press. To Quinn, though, it's about characters who are "funny, captivating, vulnerable, and all too human."

### PhD Student Receives IMPACT Award from the American Physical Society

At the 2024 annual meeting of the American Physical Society (APS), physics PhD student Jacob Adamczyk received an IMPACT award, presented to him by the APS Topical Group on Data Science.

The esteemed national award is given each year to only a handful of graduate students based on their impact on data science and their potential for continued success in the field.

"This award is a recognition of the amazing accomplishments Jacob has already made as he progresses in his PhD research. He is effectively creating a new field which can be termed 'physics-informed reinforcement learning,' and he has published several papers related to this topic in the leading journals in both physics and computer science," said Adamczyk's advisor, Professor of Physics and Department Chair Rahul Kulkarni.

Adamczyk's current research focus is on reinforcement learning, an area of machine learning used to solve sequential decision-making problems. His research is closely tied to his teaching efforts. This semester, he developed and is teaching an informal course on deep learning. He created the class to make the revolutionary field of deep learning more accessible to a wider audience.

### UMass Boston Introduces Fully Online Modality for Graduate Business Programs

UMass Boston's College of Management has announced the launch of a new fully online modality option for its MBA, Master of Science in Accounting (MSA), and Master of Science in Finance (MSF) Programs. This initiative is for professionals in the Boston area and beyond, providing them the flexibility to pursue advanced education at a reasonable cost while balancing their careers and personal commitments.

"With this expansion of our graduate programs into the online sphere, the College of Management reaffirms its commitment to fostering student success by meeting the evolving needs of today's learners," said Venky Venkatachalam, dean of the College of Management. "This online modality option opens doors for individuals who seek to advance their careers without compromising on quality education."

In addition to the online modality, the college has made significant investments in other areas, including the appointment of a dedicated director of career services. Recognizing the importance of networking and industry connections in today's competitive job market, this strategic move underscores the college's commitment to making sure students not only get a top-notch education but also build relationships with potential employers.

## Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace



Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco speaks with Jim Braude and Margery Eagan during their Boston Public Radio show at University Hall.

### UMass Boston Hosts GBH's Boston Public Radio on Campus

University Hall was turned into a radio studio on Friday, May 3, as the university hosted GBH News show *Boston Public Radio* for a live broadcast. Hosts Jim Braude and Margery Eagan spoke to Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, former White House national climate advisor to President Biden and UMass Boston alumna Gina McCarthy '76, and Governor Maura Healey about the issues of the day.

They were also joined by Professor of Philosophy Nir Eisikovits; alumnus and tech entrepreneur Paul English '87, G'89, H'19, who launched the Paul English Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute at UMass Boston; and UMass Boston students Isabella Pino and Ashanti Mclean.

Listen to the full show.



### U.S. News: UMass Boston's Graduate Programs Among Nation's Best in 2024

UMass Boston's graduate programs in education, nursing, business, and public affairs are ranked as top 100 programs on *U.S. News & World Report's* 2024-25 Best Graduate Schools list. Rankings are based on enrollment numbers, job placement rates, faculty statistics, and other essential quality indicators designed to help prospective students make informed decisions.

Six UMass Boston programs have new rankings:

- Graduate programs in education – No. 46
- Master of Nursing – No. 52
- Master's programs in public affairs – No. 70
- Doctor of Nursing Practice – No. 90
- Part-time MBA program – No. 87
- Computer Science – No. 120

Earlier this year, UMass Boston's online bachelor's degree and online graduate programs, including the MBA and master's in education, were ranked among the nation's best in the *U.S. News and World Report* 2024 Best Online Programs rankings.

### Red Sox Manager Alex Cora to Serve as UMass Boston Sport Leadership and Administration Program's 2024 Executive in Residence

Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora will serve as 2024 Executive in Residence for the New Balance Sport Leadership and Administration program at UMass Boston. The program, which launched in 2019, aims to cultivate equity-minded, character-driven, and transformational leaders who will positively improve society through sport as they enter the sports sector as professionals.

Cora has been a part of the Boston community since joining the Red Sox as a player in 2005. Before leading the Red Sox as the first Puerto Rican manager of a World Series-winning team in 2018, Cora won a title as a player with the club in 2007. As Executive in Residence, he'll shift his leadership from the ballpark to the classroom to provide mentorship, guidance, and advice to program participants, both on campus and during student visits to Fenway Park.

"I am honored to take part in this unique program, which prepares students to make a positive impact in the sports world and beyond," Cora said. "The sports industry is highly competitive, and I'm excited to collaborate with UMass Boston to assist in the development of high-character individuals and help position them to attain positions that will allow them to shape sports for future generations."

## Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise



Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco is joined by Congressman Stephen Lynch (right) as the congressman announced \$1 million in federal funding to create an Offshore Workforce Development Center.

### Congressman Lynch Announces \$1M in Federal Funding for New Offshore Workforce Development Center at UMass Boston

Congressman Stephen Lynch joined UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco at Fox Point Marina in April to announce and celebrate \$1 million in federal community project funding for UMass Boston to create an Offshore Workforce Development Center.

The funding will help UMass Boston engage and prepare the next generation to meet the demand for talent in the offshore wind industry, which can complement priorities in aquaculture, blue tech, and coastal resilience technology.

“The Offshore Workforce Development Center is an innovative way to educate and train students in emerging career fields related to renewable energy development, which is critically important to fighting climate change,” said Congressman Lynch. “These labs will allow students to learn by integrating state-of-the-art virtual reality and online training with in-person learning opportunities within a robust maritime environment.

The appropriation will enable UMass Boston to venture further into STEM education and develop a pipeline of workforce-ready people who will power the regional economy in emerging fields. At the same time, the funding will unleash state-of-the-art educational technologies and facilitate the design of innovative, accessible, and flexible micro-credential programs across the STEM curriculum.

## Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace (cont.)



Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco was joined by campus leaders as he signed the Okanagan Charter designating UMass Boston as a Health Promoting University.

### UMass Boston Adopts Okanagan Charter

UMass Boston announced the adoption of the Okanagan Charter, affirming the university's commitment to fostering health and well-being on campus, during Earth Month. The adoption stems from the university's Wellness Initiative launched last fall, intended to instill and support a broad understanding of health—physically, academically, environmentally, financially, socially, intellectually, and spiritually.

“The Beacon Wellness Initiative reflects UMass Boston's interest in a growing movement across higher education to emphasize health and well-being as a core aspiration of campus life, human life, and the life of our planet,” said Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco. “Adopting the Okanagan Charter, a guiding framework of shared health and well-being values, formalizes our vision.”

In addition to designating UMass Boston as a Health Promoting University, adoption of the charter calls on the university, going forward, to embed health into all aspects of its work, policies, and campus culture; and to lead health promotion action and collaboration, locally and globally.

UMass Boston is the twenty-sixth university to officially adopt the charter as part of the U.S. Health Promoting Campuses Network, joining a global movement of campuses around the world.

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## Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise (cont.)

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### University Research Awards for the Past Quarter

- PI John Butterworth Jr./Institute for Community Inclusion received \$499,702 from the Maryland Dept of Health & Mental Hygiene for *Employment First Expansion and Employment Data*.
- PI Jaimie Timmons/Global Inclusion and Social Development received \$400,000 from the University of New Hampshire (sub from Administration for Community Living) for *Translating Findings on Supports for Community Life Engagement*.
- PI Darren Kew/Conflict Resolution received \$399,432 from the U.S. Department of Justice for *A Community-Based Early Warning and Early Response Mechanism to Prevent and Address Hate in Boston*.
- PI Allison Novelly/Urban Harbors Institute received \$393,470 from the City of Newburyport for *Climate Resilient Newburyport: Community Action Project - Community Forums for Action*.
- PI Anne Douglass/Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation received \$350,000 from the MA Department of Early Education and Care for *Metro Boston Professional Development Centers (PDCs)*.
- PI Marcelo Suárez-Orozco/Chancellor's Office received \$300,000 from the University of Massachusetts Foundation for *From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience*.
- PI Lauren Bowen/English received \$223,987 from Davis Educational Foundation for *Improving Writing Instruction Across Disciplines through the University WAC Program*.
- PI Abdullah Eroglu/Engineering received \$200,000 from the National Science Foundation for Collaborative Research: SWIFT: Data Driven Learning and Optimization in Reconfigurable Intelligent Surface Enabled Industrial Wireless Network for Advanced Manufacturing.
- PI Kouros Zarringhalam/Mathematics received \$138,488 from Boston College (sub from National Institutes of Health) for Defining the shared transcriptional network underlying *Toxoplasma* extracellular stress and stage transition.
- PI Kenneth Reardon/Urban Planning and Community Development received \$100,000 from the University of North Texas for Expanding Boston's Pipeline for Youth of Color in Resiliency Planning.
- PI Kristin Uiterwyk/Urban Harbors Institute received \$100,000 from the Town of Manchester-By-The-Sea for Manchester by the Sea Harbor Plan.

### UMass Boston Partnering with Boston College's Center for Retirement Research

UMass Boston has begun a five-year partnership with the Center for Retirement Research (CRR) at Boston College as an affiliated research institution, a collaboration that opens opportunities for UMass Boston researchers and students. In the first year of the partnership, two UMass Boston gerontology research projects have won funding, and three paid summer research fellowship positions have been created exclusively for UMass Boston undergraduates.

The CRR is one of six national centers in the Social Security Administration's (SSA) Retirement and Disability Research Consortium. Since the consortium's launch in 1998, CRR staff have conducted interdisciplinary research, trained scholars, and disseminated information on all aspects of retirement income.

UMass Boston joins the Mathematica Center for Studying Disability Policy, Syracuse University, and the Urban Institute as affiliated organizations of the Boston College center.