



URBAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM—UMASS BOSTON

EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS
MASSACHUSETTS
URBAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

INVESTMENT RATIONALE

WHY URBAN SCHOLARS?

Since 1983 Urban Scholars Program has been opening the doors of the best colleges to academically talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Being housed at the University of Massachusetts Boston ensures the program's strong ties to and support from the university, as well as promotes involvement of faculty. Program graduates have a college enrollment rate of 92%, a college retention rate of 53%, and have become leaders in many professions.

WHY INVEST NOW?

Investing in Urban Scholars will enable the program to develop and strengthen in the following areas:

- Launch a comprehensive alumni relations program with the goals of providing mentors to current students and offering further academic and career support to program graduates
- Develop a more robust career development component
- Explore the opportunities for program replication to other UMASS campuses
- Upgrade the program database and data collection protocols to improve student assessment and data-driven decision-making

OUTCOMES

URBAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM	BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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% OF STUDENTS GOING TO COLLEGE (HS CLASS OF '09)

92%

65%^{a,b}

% OF STUDENTS GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE WITHIN 6 YEARS (HS CLASS OF '03)

53%

35.5%^{c,d}

^aSource: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2008-09 Plans of High School Graduates Report: District Level, (2009).

^bIndicates high school graduates intending to go to college

^cSource: Northeastern University Center for Labor Market Studies, Getting to the Finish Line: College Enrollment and Graduation, (2008).

^dShows % of students graduating from college within 7 years

ALIGNMENT WITH RECOMMENDED APPROACH

Social Impact Research recommends college access and success programs that include the three components shown in the table to the right. This table shows some of the activities the organization undertakes related to each component.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION AND ENRICHMENT

- Tutoring services
- Preparation for college admission tests
- Academic enrichment courses for core subjects
- Academic enrichment courses for additional subjects
- Academic advising services

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE AND ASPIRATIONS

- Long-term mentors
- Extracurricular activities
- Visits to colleges and/or college fairs
- Internships/work experience
- College application assistance
- Summer bridge programs
- Support during college

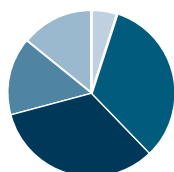
FINANCIAL AID AND PLANNING

- Assistance with federal financial aid application (FAFSA)
- Assistance with private scholarship applications
- Assistance with loan applications
- Financial aid education and awareness for parents

POPULATION SERVED BY URBAN SCHOLARS

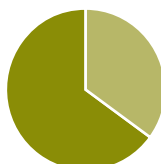
Urban Scholars Program serves talented middle and high school urban youth from public schools in South Boston and Dorchester. The majority of their students are low-income and minority.

RACE AND ETHNICITY



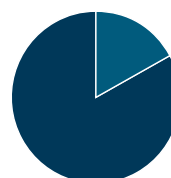
As reported by the organization

FAMILY INCOME



As reported by the organization

PARENT EDUCATION



As reported by the organization

PARTNERS

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Gavin	Rogers
Young Achievers Academy	TechBoston Lower Academy
McCormack	

HIGH SCHOOL

Jeremiah E. Burke	Excel
Dorchester Academy	Odyssey
TechBoston Academy	Monument High

UNIVERSITY

University of Massachusetts - Boston

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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES HIGHLIGHTS

SYSTEMIC CHANGE

- Conducted control group study which found significant differences in grades and attendance between Scholars and peers
- Partners with Council on Opportunity in Education, New England Educational Opportunity Association, and MA Educational Opportunity Association for research and advocacy on best practices
- UMass Boston Chancellor chairs Success Boston Task Force, which aims to increase college graduation rates for BPS students

GROWTH POTENTIAL

- Planning to expand services to recent program graduates (e.g., academic support while in college, post-college career support) and career development/aspiration components
- Pursuing funding to develop a program to connect alumni with a greater number of volunteers, mentors, and speakers
- Growth strategy focuses on diversifying funding to sustain current level of services and exploring opportunities to replicate to other campuses

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

AGE OF COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM	# OF STUDENTS SERVED 2009	STARTING GRADE OF PROGRAM ENTRANTS
26 years	163	6th
AVERAGE GPA OF STUDENTS ENTERING PROGRAM	AVERAGE GPA OF STUDENTS GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL	% OF STUDENTS SATISFIED WITH PROGRAM
3.22	3.38	N/A*

*Urban Scholars does not collect this data

UNIQUE ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM

In the intimate and caring environment of Urban Scholars' year-round program, students are offered:

- Access to the only program in Boston that works with gifted and talented students from non-exam middle and high schools
- The unique opportunity to enroll in at least one college-level class at UMass Boston at no charge that subsequently could be applied towards the students' university coursework
- Community service and career awareness projects that seek to develop skills and motivation for achievement at the highest level

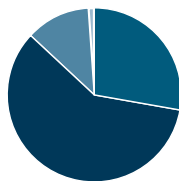
ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

SIR analyzes financial sustainability using three years of data including debt to equity ratio, current ratio, cash reserves, funding diversity, and growth rate.

COST PER BENEFICIARY	# OF MONTHS IN CASH RESERVES 2008
\$3,600*	5.31**
TOTAL ORGANIZATION BUDGET	PROGRAM SIZE AS % OF ORGANIZATION BUDGET
\$16,532,696	3%***

*Total direct program costs/total number of students served
**Nonprofits are typically expected to have 3-6 months in reserves
***Percent of entire UMass Boston budget

MAIN SOURCES OF PROGRAM FUNDING



LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Director brings expertise in alternative education, urban education reform, high school replication, and teacher training; former Harvard Graduate School of Education professor on race, culture and education
- Director's experience includes serving as Director of Data and Evaluation for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Alternative High Schools initiative
- Leadership team includes a graduate of Urban Scholars Program
- The Vice Provost provides programmatic and fiscal oversight and is a strong advocate for the program within the University and the external community

MISSION

"The Urban Scholars Program mission is to provide predominantly low-income and minority talented and gifted students from our Boston Public Schools (BPS) non-exam school partners with the skills they need to fulfill their full potential. We prepare them to successfully enroll in and complete a college education, build successful lives, and ultimately become future leaders."

CONTACT INFORMATION

David Lemmel, Ph.D. McCormack Building, 3rd Floor, Room 008,
Director 100 Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA 02125-3393
David.Lemmel@ (617) 287-5665
umb.edu <http://www.urbanscholars.umb.edu>

ABOUT ROOT CAUSE'S SOCIAL IMPACT RESEARCH

SIR is the independent research department of Root Cause, a research and consulting firm dedicated to mobilizing the nonprofit, public, and business sectors to work together in a new social impact market. SIR aggregates, analyzes, and disseminates the best information available about social issues and the performance of nonprofit organizations.

SIR research reports include social issue reports, state reports, and organization reports that are designed to enable social impact investors to make more informed decisions about the issues and organizations they support. This organization report describes one of the seven college access and success organizations that SIR selected in Boston. For further information on the SIR analysis process, please refer to our methodology.

If you are interested in investing in this organization, please contact the person listed above.