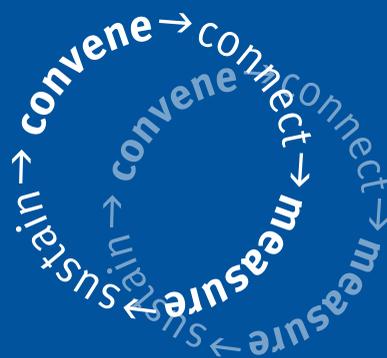


Postsecondary Coaching

BOSTON PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL



Students with a Success Boston coach are more likely to graduate than their non-coached peers.

The PIC has been part of Success Boston, the city's college completion initiative, since it began in 2008. Success Boston was launched in response to a longitudinal study by Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Studies, which showed that only 35% of Boston Public Schools graduates who had enrolled in college ever completed an associate's or bachelor's degree by the time they turned 25.

Today, high school graduation and college enrollment rates continue to rise for Boston public school students. However, getting students to college is not enough. In an economy that rewards postsecondary degrees and credentials, we must do even more to help students reach college completion. To make further progress, we will need new strategies, even as we sustain promising interventions such as postsecondary coaching.

A model that works

The PIC deploys six postsecondary coaches to assist students at Bunker Hill Community College, Roxbury Community College, Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, Quincy College, and students transitioning from community college to UMass Boston. Postsecondary coaches help students access college resources, navigate the difficult transition from high school to college, and advance toward a degree and a career.

A 2017 Abt Associates report on the impact of coaching on college persistence found that Success Boston students are 11% more likely than a matched comparison group of non-coached peers to persist into the second year of college, and 21% more likely to persist into the third year of college. Coached students had higher cumulative GPAs, higher FAFSA renewal rates, and were more likely to be in good academic standing than their non-coached peers.



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Postsecondary Persistence: Claudia Torres

When Claudia Torres graduated from Dorchester Academy in 2012, her PIC career specialist connected her to a PIC postsecondary coach who helped her enroll at Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC). After a successful first year, family issues and housing instability made school more difficult. Her grades started to slip and her drive to succeed slowed. Going into her third year, Claudia still had 30 credits left to complete before graduation, and she felt overwhelmed.

Claudia was able to establish herself independently before the start of her fourth year in the fall of 2015. She credits her PIC postsecondary coach with being there for her when she was ready to return to school full-time. She told her coach that she wanted to find employment that would pay more than her laundromat job and fit better with her school schedule. Claudia's coach recommended that she attend an information session for Getting Connected, a pilot program that prepares BHCC students to succeed at the workplace and brokers them into part-time employment and internships.

At the information session, she met the PIC's postsecondary employer account manager who leveraged his relationship with Apple to secure an interview for Claudia and coached her through the process. Claudia was hired to work at the Apple store on Boylston Street last December. She continues to work there today and is moving up the ranks. Claudia graduated from BHCC in May 2016 as a business major and transferred to UMass Boston in fall 2016, where a PIC postsecondary coach will continue to support her.



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