



2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, September 27, 2017
Federal Reserve Bank Auditorium
3:00-4:30 PM

AGENDA

I. Welcome (5 minutes)

II. PIC Annual Report (10 minutes)

Kenneth C. Montgomery, Chair, Boston PIC
First Vice President and COO, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

◆ **PIC Achievers** (12 minutes)

III. Superintendent's Remarks (10 minutes)

Tommy Chang
Superintendent, Boston Public Schools

◆ **PIC Achievers** (12 minutes)

IV. Featured Speaker (10 minutes)

Rosalin Acosta
MA Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development

V. Mayor's Remarks (10 minutes)

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor, City of Boston

◆ **PIC Achievers** (12 minutes)

Music performed by students from the Roland Hayes School of Music, Boston Public Schools

Reception to follow in the gallery, just outside the auditorium

2017 PIC ACHIEVERS

Aman Advani

Nora Blake

Preston Wigasi Brant and Svetla Georgieva

Genesis Carmona

Carolyn De Jesús Martínez, Andrew Flye, and Anne Schwieger

Michael Dunn and Abdukadir Ibrahim

Nusirat Hassan

Brenda Hector Williams

Shadé Johnson

Khang Ngo

Dante Omorogbe

Kathleen O'Neill

Naicka Pierre

Maximo Pimentel

Tyler Thomas

Ann Har-Yee Wong



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#PICAnnual

Aman Advani

CEO, Ministry of Supply

Aman Advani is the Co-Founder and CEO of Ministry of Supply, a unique clothing company founded in 2012 that approaches apparel from an engineer's point of view to develop garments that can make the transition from vigorous physical activity, like riding a bike to work, to business professional without changing. This past spring, Aman learned about the PIC from one of our partner employers. He worked with the PIC employer engagement team to determine how his growing company could best meet the needs of our students.

Through an innovative partnership, Ministry of Supply is providing PIC students with professional clothes for career readiness activities and internships. This summer, 90 PIC students received nearly 300 pieces of professional attire, both new and gently used. In March, Aman invited PIC students to the company's open house on Newbury Street where he unveiled a new 3D printer that manufactures made-to-order garments. Aman spoke with the students about his journey as an entrepreneur and encouraged them to think outside the box when it comes to technology. Ministry of Supply will continue to donate clothing to support PIC students and further develop its partnership with the PIC as the business grows.

Nora Blake

Sodexo District Manager, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Nora Blake is a Sodexo District Manager who oversees the Beth Israel Deaconess System and formerly the director of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) Food Services Department. The Food Services department has hired PIC students during the summer for many years. Through this partnership, Nora saw the benefits that young people received from paid summer jobs in a real work environment.

For many years, Nora has been affiliated with the Mary Lyon K-8 School and Pilot High School, a fully inclusive program serving both regular education students and those with social and emotional disabilities. In 2014, Nora brought these two parts of her life together by offering employment opportunities to Mary Lyon students who might otherwise have been overlooked. Nora's leadership has opened opportunities for these students to earn money and learn workplace skills in a supportive environment.

Preston Wigasi Brant

Recruiter, Delta Airlines Global Services

Svetla Georgieva

Business Account Representative, Boston Career Link

Last November, Preston Wigasi Brant, a recruiter for the Security Division of Delta Air Lines Global Services, faced the challenge of hiring 50 employees for Delta's new security operation at Logan Airport by January. Based in Atlanta, Preston discovered Boston Career Link (BCL) in Roxbury through an online search. Preston contacted the career center and connected with the BCL Business Services team. Given the labor market information available, the staff at BCL encouraged Preston to increase the proposed wages for Delta's new hires based on the competition for security staff in the city. Preston took this information back to Delta's corporate office and was able to increase the wage range by \$3 per hour, settling on \$15-\$19 per hour plus benefits.

At this point, BCL Business Account Representative Svetla Georgieva took charge. She scheduled and coordinated recruiting events and found space for Delta to on-board new hires and train employees when space was not available at Logan Airport. From December to February, Preston was on-site at BCL nearly once per week. The partnership resulted in Delta hiring 51 job seekers from the career center. Now, Delta is expanding its security operations at Logan, working with BCL to hire 30 additional staff members.

Genesis Carmona

Student, Bunker Hill Community College

Genesis Carmona moved to the United States from the Dominican Republic in 2012. She wanted to pursue a postsecondary degree, but knew that her first task was to learn English. After spending two years taking English language courses at YMCA Boston, she joined the YMCA Bridges to College Transition program and connected with the PIC's SkillWorks college navigator Zeida Santos in 2014.

Zeida helped Genesis apply to Bunker Hill Community College and fill out her financial aid packet. As a first-generation college student, Genesis relied on Zeida for support navigating campus and accessing resources. Genesis wanted to become a dental hygienist, so she worked with Zeida to research program options at local colleges while taking the pre-requirements at BHCC. Genesis completed the nine-week Dental Assisting Training program at Boston University while continuing online courses at BHCC. As part of the program, she secured an internship at Whittier Street Health Center, which led to a full-time job as a dental assistant. Genesis is still taking classes at BHCC in order to earn her Associate's degree this semester, and she plans to transfer to a four-year college to continue her studies.

Carolyn De Jesús Martínez

*Student,
Boston International Newcomers Academy*

Andrew Flye

*Computer Science Teacher,
Boston International Newcomers Academy*

Anne Schwieger

*Broadband and Digital Equity Advocate,
Department of Innovation and Technology, City of Boston*

Carolyn De Jesús Martínez, currently a junior at Boston International Newcomers Academy, hit the ground running when she first arrived in the U.S. from the Dominican Republic by attending Andrew Flye's after school coding club. Recognizing her talent and ambition, Andrew connected Carolyn to Cat Cote, the school's PIC career specialist. Carolyn participated in PIC job readiness workshops and signed up to shadow Anne Schwieger at the City's Department of Innovation and Technology. Carolyn made such an impression on Anne that she was invited back for an internship that summer.

At City Hall, Carolyn took the next steps in furthering her tech skills by mapping availability of broadband internet access and investigating digital tools and connectivity resources across Boston. She continued as a part-time employee throughout the following school year, while also taking a computer science course taught by Andrew. This past summer, Carolyn participated in the Girls Who Code program. This school year, she is working with the PIC to prepare to apply for a highly competitive summer job at Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Carolyn's success demonstrates what can happen when the PIC brings educators and employers together.

Michael Dunn

*Member, CFA Society
Chartered Financial Analyst, BNY Mellon (retired)*

Abdukadir Ibrahim

*Student, Boston International Newcomers Academy
Intern, State Street Global Advisors*

Last school year, the PIC partnered with the CFA Society of Boston on a pilot funded by BNY Mellon to prepare students to compete for internships in the financial services industry. Michael Dunn, a retired Chartered Financial Analyst and member of the CFA Society, volunteered to coordinate the effort. Under Mike's leadership, a team of finance professionals created and taught a financial literacy curriculum tailored to high school students and designed to interest them in the industry. Workshops covered topics such as banking, budgeting, credit, and investing. Beyond the professional skills gained, students were able to apply what they learned to their personal lives, positioning themselves on a path towards financial independence.

Thanks to Mike and his team, 50 Boston public high school students gained the skills and knowledge they need to further explore careers in finance, and 34 of them secured summer internships in the industry. One of these students was Abdukadir Ibrahim, a Somali youth who moved from Saudi Arabia to Syria to Turkey before arriving in Boston in 2014. After working for two summers at Whittier Street Health Center through the PIC's sponsored jobs program, he told his PIC career specialist that he was ready to compete for an internship in the private sector. Interested in finance, he came to the PIC's downtown office after school to attend Mike's workshops. Simultaneously, Abdu earned a spot in State Street's new mentoring program and later spent his summer working for State Street Global Advisors.

Nusirat Hassan

*Graduate, John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science
Graduate, Northeastern University and Cambridge College
Student Life Manager, Community Academy of Science and Health*

Nusirat Hassan graduated from the John D. O'Bryant and went on to study at Northeastern University and Cambridge College. After working as a Case Manager at the Sheriff's Department, she took her counseling skills to Community Academy of Science and Health (CASH) where she is currently the Student Life Manager. Bringing purpose and perspective to her role, Nusy coordinates the efforts of her school colleagues and external partners, while always keeping students and families at the core of her work.

Employed since she was in high school, Nusy appreciates the value of connecting the classroom to the workplace. She collaborates with Yan Zheng, the PIC career specialist at CASH and Quincy Upper School, to conduct job readiness workshops and facilitate career exploration activities. For example, Nusy was a key partner in hosting a career panel at CASH, helping the PIC coordinate student schedules, manage classroom space, and recruit internal staff to help pull off the event. She is trusted by both students and faculty members, establishing her as one of the most influential members of the school community. The PIC can always count on Nusy to be there – dedicated and willing.

Brenda Hector Williams

Assignment Transfer Specialist, Boston Public Schools

As an Assignment Transfer Specialist, Brenda Hector Williams works closely with Re-Engagement Center (REC) staff to make sure that students are placed in the educational program that provides the best fit. No matter how challenging a student's situation, the REC can count on Brenda to work tirelessly to find the right school assignment for that student.

When the PIC first started reaching out to high school dropouts within the district's Project Reconnect program, Brenda was one of the first BPS administrators to embrace the cause. A decade later, Project Reconnect has evolved into the nationally-recognized REC, and Brenda is still making things happen for students.

Great administrators come up with ideas that make things better for the people they serve. In order to smooth the transition of re-enrolling students, Brenda suggested that the REC be given a school code. This simple change holds re-engaged students within the BPS system while they await placement, facilitating a swift transfer to their new schools once they are assigned.

Shadé Johnson

Graduate, Charlestown High School

Certified Nursing Assistant, Massachusetts General Hospital

During high school, Shadé Johnson participated in PIC leadership development activities, connected with employment through her career specialist, and received significant support from KeySteps, a school-based nonprofit that provides wrap-around services. A year after she graduated, Shadé was out of school and unemployed. She sought help from her KeySteps counselor, who referred her to the Connection Center.

When Shadé walked through the Connection Center door, an X-Cel Education Success Coach was there to welcome her and ask about her career aspirations. Shadé wanted to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) so the Success Coach accompanied her to an information session for a tuition-free CNA training program offered by East Boston Neighborhood Health Center and Bunker Hill Community College. Though initially shy, encouragement from her instructor propelled her to rise to the top of the class. Shadé completed the CNA program in the spring of 2016 and passed the state CNA exam that June. She now works as a CNA in the emergency room at Massachusetts General Hospital. Shadé's success demonstrates that there are opportunities for those who do not go on to college immediately after high school, particularly if they make the right connections.

Khang Ngo

Graduate, Madison Park Technical Vocational High School

Success Boston graduate, Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology

Technician, Quirk Volkswagen

Khang Ngo came to Boston from Vietnam in 2008. In June, Khang received his Bachelor's degree in Automotive Management from the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT). College wasn't always easy for Khang. Early on, though fluent in English, he found himself struggling with college-level writing assignments. His PIC postsecondary coach, Tamika Williams, connected Khang with a BFIT professor who volunteered to help him with his writing.

Khang got a good start on both college and career while he was a student at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School. There, he enrolled in the Automotive and Truck Repair pathway, which allowed him to earn high school and college credits concurrently by taking dual enrollment courses at BFIT. He also started earning money in high school when his PIC career specialist placed him in a summer job at the Blue Cross Blue Shield warehouse. Throughout his time at BFIT, Khang complemented what he learned in the classroom with jobs at local automotive dealerships. Today, Khang works as a technician at Quirk Volkswagen, with an eye toward automotive management down the line.

Dante Omorogbe

Student, EDCO Youth Alternative

Dante Omorogbe was on track to graduate high school in 2014 when family issues left him without a home. Once homeless, keeping up with school became too much and Dante dropped out. Eventually, he moved in with his grandparents where he also assumed the responsibility of taking care of his sick grandfather. After his grandfather died, he made the decision to go back to school and coincidentally happened upon a flyer for the Re-Engagement Center.

When Dante arrived at the REC, he was greeted by a PIC dropout re-engagement specialist who helped him determine how many credits he needed to graduate and which program would best fit his needs. Last September, the REC helped Dante enroll in the EDCO Youth Alternative, a program that primarily serves older students. The school provides flexible class schedules and adjusts the pace of classes depending on the students. EDCO's supportive environment propelled Dante forward. The twenty-one-year-old is on track to graduate next June. Seeing more possibilities for his future than ever before, Dante is thinking about a career in social work to open doors for kids just like him.

Kathleen O'Neill

Director of the Single Stop Program, Bunker Hill Community College

When PIC postsecondary coaches are working with a Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) student who encounters a non-academic barrier, they know to go to Kathleen O'Neill at the Single Stop office. Single Stop is a major initiative at BHCC that connects students to resources such as financial counseling, health insurance assistance, housing support, or even non-perishable food. Kathleen knows that there is no one-size-fits-all approach, so she takes the time to meet each student that the PIC and other Success Boston coaches bring her way.

In addition to working with individual students, Kathleen creates programs to address the issues that most students face. For example, Kathleen hosts a series of FAFSA events throughout the year to help postsecondary coaches keep students focused on the need to reapply for financial aid each year. Kathleen is a well-respected figure on campus and a unique partner.

Naicka Pierre

Student, TechBoston Academy

Intern, Faulkner Hospital

Naicka Pierre emigrated from Haiti to America when she was four years old. As a sophomore at TechBoston Academy, Naicka took advantage of the opportunities the PIC has to offer. She connected with PIC career specialist, Jha'Shawn Burrell, and spent the year participating in career readiness workshops. That summer, she secured a sponsored job as a childcare assistant at Little Leaders Prep School. Her success during the internship allowed her to continue working there during the school year.

With a summer of work under her belt, Naicka expressed an interest in the healthcare field. She worked with Jha'Shawn to prepare for a job shadow at Faulkner Hospital, where she impressed the staff and was encouraged to apply for their competitive internship program. She won a position working for the Transport Department at Faulkner Hospital this past summer and, once again, she was invited to stay on through the school year. Naicka's workplace experiences have helped her focus on her goal of pursuing a career in healthcare.

Maximo Pimentel

Graduate, Madison Park Vocational Technical High School

Success Boston student, Bunker Hill Community College

While a student at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, Maximo Pimentel was a part of the Boston Public Schools (BPS) STRIVE Program. Through STRIVE, Maximo was connected to PIC career specialist Gabrielle Guity. Maximo worked with Gaby to develop his work readiness skills and apply for jobs and internships. He secured a summer job at the Document Imaging Service Center at English High School, an inclusive STRIVE worksite that allows students to explore their technology interests.

After graduating high school in 2015, Maximo enrolled at Bunker Hill Community College and reconnected with Gaby, who had transitioned from PIC career specialist to postsecondary coach. Working with a familiar face, Maximo learned how to navigate campus, select a major, and access campus resources. After completing an internship at Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Maximo reassessed his career aspirations and realized that majoring in human services better aligned with his interests. With Gaby's help, Maximo was able to switch his major from business to human services without delaying his graduation date. He is maintaining a 3.3 grade point average and expects to graduate in the spring of 2019.

Tyler Thomas

Graduate, Charlestown High School

Intern, Related Beal

Success Boston student, Bunker Hill Community College

Despite struggling with commitment and communication during his junior year, Tyler Thomas grew to become one of the most dedicated and successful PIC students at Charlestown High School. At the end of his sophomore year, Tyler was selected for a summer job that led to a coveted school-year internship. By the time winter rolled around, Tyler found himself struggling to balance school and work and he was not able to complete the internship. A community-based job the following summer did not work out well either, and he ended up walking away.

Back at school in the fall, Tyler's PIC career specialist, Olivia Paquette, helped him realize that he needed to explore different work environments. As part of a new PIC career awareness program around the gas and electric utility industry, Tyler participated in a site visit to Feeney Brothers Utility Services, followed by a job shadow at Eversource. This past summer, Tyler worked at Related Beal in an internship the PIC developed with help from the Greater Boston Real Estate Board and the Governor's STEM Advisory Council. With support from his PIC postsecondary coach, Tyler is enrolled at Bunker Hill and hopes to qualify for the Electric Power Utility Technology program, which offers paid co-op experiences at Eversource and the opportunity for employment upon graduation.

Ann Har-Yee Wong

Program Coordinator, Mayor's Office of Workforce Development

Ann Har-Yee Wong is a familiar face to many in Boston's public workforce development system. She worked for the Chinese Progressive Association for 10 years and then as a career specialist at Boston Career Link, one of Boston's two comprehensive career centers. In 2012, Ann became the Program Coordinator for Adult Literacy and Special Projects at the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development.

Ann works with 29 Boston Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs to provide English language and high school equivalency services to over 3,000 adult students each year. In addition, she leads the Adult Literacy Initiative, in partnership with the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, to develop policy and best practices for ABE providers. She successfully advocated for a dedicated staff position to help ABE customers navigate the career center system. Ann is highly respected in the community, and she was nominated for this award by colleagues from several agencies.



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