

Scholarship presented in name of Massachusetts State Police Trooper who died from on-duty injuries

"On July 26th, 2018 Massachusetts State Police Trooper Thomas Devlin was conducting a routine traffic stop on Route 3 in Billerica when he was struck by a motorist who had failed to move over.

Just over two years later, on September 3rd, 2020, he lost the fight to his injuries and passed away. His legacy will live on in many ways, one of which being a scholarship to aid graduating high school seniors who will be attending college and majoring in criminal justice.

Trooper Devlin leaves a legacy to work hard without seeking recognition, place others before yourself and lead with a quiet spirit that will leave a lasting impression.

Yesterday Gianna Melaragni was presented with a \$2000.00 scholarship from the Trooper Thomas W. Devlin Scholarship Fund at Wilmington High School.

Congratulations Gianna for a job well done and best of luck in your future endeavors!" -Massachusetts State Police.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

New Bedford Public Schools recognized for financial leadership

New Bedford Public Schools Finance and Operations Department is the recipient of the 2022 Donald D. Johnson Operational and Cost Efficiency Award, which “recognizes school districts for their efforts in developing replicable, cost efficient approaches that address operational challenges commonly burdening districts.” The prestigious award was presented by the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) at its FY22 Annual Institute, May 18-20. The award comes with \$2,500 for NBPS scholarships.

Margaret Raymond Driscoll, MASBO Executive Director noted the award identifies exemplars of best practices, which other districts may follow. “The New Bedford Public Schools’ Finance and Operations team, led by Asst. Superintendent of Finance and Operations Andrew O’Leary, as well as the district as a whole, clearly, intentionally, and creatively practices and models the tying of resources to improved student outcomes, working to improve the lives and education of all students. MASBO is privileged to share this work with districts around the Commonwealth who can replicate it within their own school communities for the benefit of students.”

In congratulating the team, Superintendent Thomas Anderson stated, “This distinguished award is a reflection of NBPS’ high expectations across all areas of its activities, from teaching and learning to finance and operations – always with a clear focus on supporting student success.”

Andrew O’Leary accepted the award on behalf of the department, stating, “We have the best teachers in the state. This award shows that those supporting our schools are some of the best

finance and operations staff you will find.”

The award acknowledges NBPS efforts to outreach the city’s immigrant community. From 2021 New Bedford Public School’s Finance & Operations office engaged with a local parents group, the Mujeres Victoriosas (Victorious Women), representing families from New Bedford’s growing Central American community.

Mujeres Victoriosas’ membership is made up of Spanish speaking mothers of New Bedford students across all grade levels – all committed to increasing school/parent engagement and learning more about educational programs within the city and district. The partnership has increased awareness of NBPS’ numerous benefits and brought families and their community closer to maximizing the array of opportunities the district has to offer.

The Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) is a 501(c)3 professional association, enhancing the competence and knowledge of financial and operational professionals in public schools throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Donald D. Johnson Operational and Cost Efficiency Award is made possible through MASBO’s partnership with VOYA Financial.

Dartmouth’s Bishop Stang announces top ten graduates for 2022

Congratulations to the Top Ten students of the Bishop Stang High School Class of 2022: Aiden Guay, Tyler Hunt, Madeleine

Kippe, Joey Landry, Aimee Cabral, Samantha Gonsalves, Sarah Barboza, Neda Habboosh, Lavina Burman, and Jillian Sferraza. The Top Ten students were recognized this year on May 24th at White's of Westport during the annual Senior Awards and Scholarship Presentations.

Additional recognition will occur at the Class of 2022 Graduation Ceremony, where Salutatorian Tyler Hunt will welcome the graduates and guests, and Valedictorian Aiden Guay will deliver an address at the 60th Commencement Exercises. The guest speaker at the graduation ceremony will be Father Riley Williams of the class of 2003. Bishop Stang High School's Baccalaureate Mass was held on Wednesday, May 25th with Graduation ceremonies to be held on Friday, May 27th, 2022. Congratulations to these amazing students!

1. Aiden Guay of Fairhaven, MA (Boston College)
2. Tyler Hunt of Dartmouth, MA (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)
3. Madeleine Kippe of Dartmouth, MA (Elon University)
4. Joey Landry of Falmouth, MA (Tufts University)
5. Aimee Cabral of Dartmouth, MA (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
6. Samantha Gonsalves of New Bedford, MA (University of Vermont)
7. Sarah Barboza of New Bedford, MA (Nova Southwestern University)
8. Neda Habboosh of Dartmouth, MA (Northeastern University)
9. Lavina Burman of Wareham, MA (United States Military Academy)
10. Jillian Sferrazza of Lakeville, MA (Baylor University)



Neda Haboosh and Tyler Hunt. Bishop Stang photo.



Madeleine Kippe and Aiden Guay. Bishop Stang photo.



*Samantha Gonsalves, Lavina Burman, and Jillian Sferrazza.
Bishop Stang photo.*

Scholarships totaling \$175,000 awarded to five New Bedford students

Next-generation STEM leaders celebrated during SouthCoast Community Foundation award reception.

The SouthCoast Community Foundation hosted its 21st Annual Jacobs Family New Bedford High Schools Scholarships reception virtually on Friday, May 13th, where five New Bedford students received awards totaling \$175,000. Zachary Bois, Raven DeGrace, Samuel Thomas Jupin, Sabrina Rosa Costa, and Katherine Maldonado Montoya each received a four-year \$35,000 grant from the SouthCoast Community Foundation to support their STEM-focused academic pursuits. Joining the Community Foundation, school leadership, previous Jacobs scholars, were donors Dr. Irwin and Joan Jacobs and Mayor Jon Mitchell.

“With these five new scholars, there are now 93 New Bedford

students who are benefitting from the Jacobs' kind spirit, generosity, and encouragement to use their college education and future careers to make the world a better place, to safeguard our democracy and planet," stated SouthCoast Community President and CEO, Leonard M. Lee. "We are honored to steward this fund on behalf of Irwin and Joan Jacobs and help Zachary, Raven, Samuel, Sabrina, and Katherine pursue their educational dreams and aspirations."

Grant Recipient	Amount	High School
Zachary Bois	\$35,000	New Bedford High School
Raven DeGrace	\$35,000	New Bedford High School
Samuel Thomas Jupin	\$35,000	New Bedford High School
Sabrina Rosa Costa	\$35,000	Global Learning Charter Public School
Katherine Maldonado Montoya	\$35,000	Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School

The Fund annually provides five four-year scholarships, up to \$35,000, to one New Bedford Global Learning Charter School, three New Bedford High School, and one Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School graduating seniors who major in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) related field. In the fall, Zachary will pursue a degree in Forensic Accounting at Franklin Pierce University. Raven will attend Gordon University, where she will major in Psychology with a concentration in Counseling. Samuel will be studying Zoology at the University of New Hampshire. Sabrina plans to study Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and Katherine also plans to attend the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth to study Computer Science.

Addressing the scholars and attendees, Mayor Jon Mitchell commented, "The Jacobs Scholarship event has become a rite of spring. The awards are a recognition of excellence and an acknowledgment of hard work. The Jacobs have been there for New Bedford and our students time and again. We are profoundly

grateful to them and the Community Foundation, teachers, and administrators for their support. Congratulations to the recipients. We will be watching you move along in your academic and professional careers and hope you will come back to New Bedford to share your talents, just like Dr. Irwin and Joan Jacobs do every year.”

The Jacobs Scholarship was established in 2000 by New Bedford native Dr. Irwin Jacobs (New Bedford High graduate, Class of 1950) and his wife, Joan, to honor two New Bedford High School educators who made a huge impact on Dr. Jacobs and his future career, Philip Bronspiegel and Melver C. Felton, Jr.

Dr. Irwin Jacobs remarked, “A big congratulations to the 2022 awardees. It is always exciting to meet the new scholars and reconnect with our past recipients every year. While pursuing our education, Joan and I benefited greatly from scholarships. Without that support, we wouldn’t be in a position today to help others. It gives us great pleasure to do so and cheer them on as they progress through their academic and career paths.”

The SouthCoast Community Foundation is a nonprofit serving the communities of Southeastern Massachusetts through philanthropy. The Community Foundation mission is to mobilize philanthropy by matching donors and resources with community needs for the benefit of our region. Since 1995, the organization has distributed over \$50 million from more than 200 funds to humanitarian, educational, and cultural organizations in the region. For more information, visit www.southcoastcf.org.

Upcoming panel discussion celebrating life of Capt. Paul Cuffe of Westport, New Bedford

Spinner Publications introduces the second in a four-part series of panel discussions celebrating the life of Captain Paul Cuffe (1759-1817) of Westport. Titled "Captain Paul Cuffe: Entrepreneur," the event will take place on Saturday, June 11th from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the Wamsutta Club, 427 County Street in New Bedford.

Paul Cuffe's career as an entrepreneur begins when as a teenager he sailed through British blockades and marauding pirates to trade needed goods on Nantucket during the American Revolutionary War. After the war, he fished for cod on the Grand Banks, becoming one of Westport's earliest pioneers in the commercial fishing trade, even as he commanded whaling expeditions to Belle Isle off the Labrador coast.

Later, trader Cuffe teamed up with his brother-in-law, Michael Wainer, to become a leading shipbuilder in Westport, turning out schooners, brigs and barks suitable for trans-Atlantic voyages. He established a packet trade from New England to New York, later expanding from Canada to the Southern states, and built a lucrative domestic market for gypsum mined in Canada.

The intrepid captain dangerously entered Southern slave ports with his Black and Native American crew. He increased trading to South America, West Africa and Europe, importing exotic and essential goods to be sold at the family store he established in the center of New Bedford. Captain Cuffe traded during the War of 1812 and the Napoleonic Wars in northern Europe. He weathered violent storms, unlawful detainments, ship seizures,

lost crew, and political shenanigans to become one of the most successful merchant mariners of his time. Paul Cuffe's final voyage was in pursuit of the establishment of a growing, independent nation in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

The panel of scholars will discuss Captain Cuffe's impact on the economy and his lifelong passion to improve the human condition of his brethren—free and enslaved people of color. Panelists will explore how Cuffe's legacy helps inform modern entrepreneurs.

Panel members headlining the discussion are:



Spinner Publications photo.

- **David C. Cole**, economist and author of over twelve books, including *Paul Cuffe: His Purpose, Partners and Property*. David received a PhD in Economics from the University of Michigan in 1959. He taught at Vanderbilt University (1958-62) and was affiliated with the Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID) and the Economics Department at Harvard (1966–1994).



Spinner Publications photo.

- **Marion Kilson**, social anthropologist, received her PhD in 1967 and retired as Graduate School Dean at Salem State University in 2001. She published 8 books and many articles on African and African American topics. She curated the 2009 exhibition, “Black Entrepreneurs of the 18th and 19th

Centuries” at the Museum of African American History and Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.



Spinner Publications photo.

- **Samia Walker**, Executive Director of EforAll, received her B.S. in Criminal Justice from Bridgewater State College, and worked as a Domestic Violence Advocate with the New Bedford Police Department. With EforAll, Samia offers future entrepreneurs the support and guidance to help their businesses flourish, especially through adversity.



Spinner Publications photo.

- **Lamont D. Thomas** is a retired professor and leading authority on Cuffe. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Trinity College in Connecticut. Lamont's book, *Rise to Be a People: A Biography of Paul Cuffe*, (Illinois University Press, 1986), was nominated for six awards by the University of Illinois Press, including a Pulitzer Prize in History.



Spinner Publications photo.

- **Joseph Thomas**, publisher. Co-founder of Spinner Publications, Joe is the event moderator. In 1997, he received the Commonwealth Award—the state’s highest cultural achievement award—in the humanities category “for dedication to excellence in illuminating and celebrating the heritage of Southeastern Massachusetts through a series of high-quality books and publications.”

The event, Captain Paul Cuffe: Entrepreneur, is happening in conjunction with 20mi2, a city-wide weekend celebration in New Bedford, featuring live music, art, recreation, unique experiences and other programs spotlighting points of interest in the city. The 20mi2 is designed to reveal the cultural wealth abounding throughout the city’s 20-square miles.

The discussion is free to the public. There will be light fare and refreshments. Attendees are encouraged to participate in a Q &A and to socialize following the discussion. For people unable to attend, a video of the event will be available on Spinner Publications’ Facebook and YouTube pages.

Grant support comes from the Massachusetts Humanities and

the New Bedford Arts Council. The final two discussions will be held this summer in Westport and in Aquinnah, Martha's Vineyard in early fall.

For more information contact Corey Nuffer at 605-376-2692 or Spinner Publications 508-994-4564. Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/347926606847>

A total of 64 Massachusetts students, many from SouthCoast, to receive \$514,000 in scholarships

Supporting sixty-four local students in pursuit of higher education.

Today, 64 local students will gather at the Buttonwood Park Zoo for the SouthCoast Community Foundation scholarship reception to receive their awards totaling more than \$514,000. This year's recipients were chosen from a pool of more than 1100 high school seniors and college students from throughout the region, representing 22 different educational institutions.

"Our annual scholarship reception brings together those who make this work so rewarding and empowering. The funders who make the scholarships possible, the volunteers that spend countless hours reviewing applications, the families that support student achievement, and most importantly, the students who are pursuing higher education," commented SouthCoast Community Foundation President and CEO, Leonard

Lee. "They are the future leaders of our community, and we are so pleased to support them on their journey."

The scholarship recipients include:

APPONEQUET HIGH SCHOOL

- Jonathan Griffith

BISHOP STANG HIGH SCHOOL

- Madeline Rivera Carranza

DARTMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

- Lindsey Bedard
- Ava Cafasso
- Kylie daCosta
- Austin Muliro

FAIRHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

- Olivia Bernardo
- Shawna Raymond
- Marina Torres
- Nellie Zygiel

GLOBAL LEARNING CHARTER SCHOOL

- Sabrina Costa
- Valeria Maldonado

GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

- Courtney Carreiro
- Keely Clapp
- Katherine Maldonado Montoya
- Autumn Racine
- Luis Reyes-Ayala
- Evan Ziedenburg

HOMESCHOOLED

- Victoria Perry

NEW BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

- Zachary Bois
- Dona Bonnie
- Raven DeGrace
- Haden Demelo
- Mason Ferbert
- Tiara Ferreira
- Jaiden Gomes Watson
- Nalisha Jarvis
- Samuel Jupin
- Dakota Lobo
- Jizaiah Lopes
- Taryn Padilla
- Isabel Santiago
- Addylene Semedo
- Kathleen Sprissler
- Yireliz Valentin
- Emma Warn
- Hongyu Zhao

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

- Ethan Perez-Dormitzer
- Rosemary Williams

SAINT MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

- Christa Lajoie

SOMERSET BERKLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

- Sydney Dufresne
- Nicole Ledwidge

TABOR ACADEMY

- Owen Sughrue

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS – DARTMOUTH

- Anne Jean
- Patricia Nsubuga

WAREHAM HIGH SCHOOL

- Ethan Cavacas
- Adrienne Padden
- Kent Silva

WESTPORT HIGH SCHOOL

- Nathaniel Gifford
- Raurie Laliberte
- Alexzander Santos

The SouthCoast Community Foundation is a nonprofit serving the communities of Southeastern Massachusetts through philanthropy and is one of the largest aggregators of scholarships in the Southeastern Massachusetts region. The Community Foundation mission is to mobilize philanthropy by matching donors and resources with community needs for the benefit of our region. Since 1995, the organization has distributed over \$50 million from more than 200 funds to humanitarian, educational, and cultural organizations in the region. For more information, visit www.southcoastcf.org.

Massachusetts Division of

Fisheries and Wildlife: “How to plant a bumblebee-friendly garden”

The loss of bumblebees and other native pollinators can have devastating consequences on the biodiversity of Massachusetts. Learn how to plant your garden to help pollinators.

Spring is here, and that means many people are starting to plan and plant gardens and flowerbeds around their homes. Many native bumblebee species are in decline and can benefit from thoughtful gardening choices. Before you start planting, review the tips below to ensure your yard is a welcoming place for native bumblebees and other pollinators.

The decline of bumblebees

The number of bumblebee species in Massachusetts has dropped from 11 to 7, with 3 of the 7 (*B. fervidus*, *B. terricola* and *B. vagans*) in danger of disappearing from the state in the next decade if current trends continue. These losses can have devastating consequences for native biodiversity with cascading impacts across the ecosystem. The diversity of bumblebees impacts the diversity of native plants. In turn, these native plants provide food and homes to an array of insects and animals.

Multiple threats are contributing to the decline of bumblebees. Some threats, like introduced parasites, are very difficult to combat directly. Luckily, the effects of these threats may be offset by measures such as providing more habitat by planting a bumblebee-friendly garden.

Planting tips

- Avoid pesticide use, particularly those containing neonicotinoids.

- Avoid cultivars of native plants which don't produce floral nectar. In most plants, you can check for nectar by removing the flower from the base and squeezing it—a bubble of clear liquid means it has nectar. For species with a nectar spur, you can check for nectar by placing a light source behind the flower.
- Avoid exotic plants—they can have dramatic negative effects on bumblebee-native plant relationships and can contribute to bumblebee decline.
- Design plantings to ensure nectar and pollen are available for bumblebees throughout the entire growing season.
- Create nesting and overwintering sites. A dry, protected cavity containing straw, small clumps of moss, and/or dried grass located on or below the ground is ideal.
- Diversity matters! Bee abundance is not the same as bee diversity. Observe visiting bumblebees and notice if there are different species of bees.

Recommended native plants* for bumblebees

All bumblebees need adequate sources of floral nectar and pollen throughout their life cycle to keep populations humming. A truly bumblebee-friendly garden needs a variety of native plants that flower throughout the growing season.

- Aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*, *Symphyotrichum laeve*, *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
- Bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*)
- Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
- Carolina rose (*Rosa carolina*)
- Common buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- Dogbane (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*, *Apocynum cannabinum*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*, *Solidago odora*, *Solidago rugosa*)
- Joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*)
- Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*, *Spiraea tomentosa*)
- Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*, *Asclepias syriaca*, *Asclepias*

tuberosa)

- Old field toadflax (*Nuttallanthus canadensis*)
- Spiked lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*)
- St. John's Wort (*Hypericum canadense*, *Hypericum punctatum*)
- Spotted touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*)
- Swamp thistle (*Cirsium muticum*)
- Pasture thistle (*Cirsium pumilum*)
- Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)
- Virginia rose (*Rosa virginiana*)
- Wild yellow indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*)
- Wild raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*)

** Please note: Common plant names are provided in this list for easy reference, but always double check the species you purchase is native! Use the GoBotany tool to look up if a species is native.*

More ways to help bumblebees

Share what you're seeing in your garden and help scientists learn about the food source and habitat requirements of different species of bumblebee. The "Bee-cology" Project is a citizen science initiative that is crowdsourcing information about Massachusetts bumblebees. Learn more about the project and how to submit your observations.

**Massachusetts Gov. Baker
commits \$60 Million to
schools for summer learning,**

recreational programs

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced nearly \$60 million in state and federal funding available to school districts and community organizations to offer summer learning and recreational programs designed to help students grow academically and socially. Students at every grade level will have opportunities to take part in a mix of academic and enrichment programs offered at schools, after-school and early education programs and recreation sites.

Last summer, approximately 46,000 students across the Commonwealth participated in a summer learning program supported by the Baker-Polito Administration. The administration will once again support schools and community organizations that offer programs including Acceleration Academies, Summer Learning Partnerships, Summer Step Up and Summer Acceleration to College.

“Students across the Commonwealth were significantly impacted by the disruption to their learning and their social and emotional well-being caused by COVID-19, and it is imperative that we continue to provide the resources and support they need to thrive,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “We are pleased to be able to again provide this funding, and we are grateful to the community and educational partners statewide who will take advantage of these opportunities and greatly benefit the Commonwealth’s children.”

“By providing funding to support summer programs, we hope to engage more kids when school is out of session with fun, educational and enriching programs,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “These engaging programs run by caring professionals will ensure that the young people in their communities have access to the tools they need to recover both academically and emotionally.”

Remote and hybrid learning during the COVID-19 crisis led to learning loss for many students, and impacted emotional and mental health. After schools reopened across the country last year, national research showed that on average, K-12 students were five months behind in mathematics and four months behind in reading by the end of the 2020-21 school year.

In Massachusetts, results from the most recent statewide MCAS tests administered in the spring of 2021 show that many more students had gaps in their knowledge of math and, to a lesser extent, English language arts, compared to students in the same grades before the COVID-19 pandemic; and fewer students met or exceeded grade level expectations.

A recent MassINC survey of parents in Massachusetts found about 22 percent believe their children are behind grade level, compared to 13 percent who thought the same prior to the public health crisis. More than one-third of parents with younger students who are behind grade level said they are planning to send their children to summer programs.

“When we launched summer programming last year, we knew it would be a multi-year effort to help many students regain ground both academically and socially,” said Education Secretary James Peyser. “We are committed to continuing this work by partnering with communities to engage young people in innovative and productive ways.”

“We are once again providing students access to academics as well as enrichment opportunities to help them grow and keep connected to school this summer,” said Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley. “I hope all districts across the Commonwealth take advantage of these programs and the funding the Administration has made available.”

“Summer Step up will provide our young learners with the critical academic and social-emotional supports to prepare

them for a successful transition to back to school in the fall,” said Acting Commissioner Amy Kershaw. “We are pleased to be able to support this innovative collaboration with our schools and community partners for a second year to help address the impact of COVID-19 on our young students and their families.”

The following are some of the programs to be funded:

Acceleration Academies

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will help school districts launch Acceleration Academies, which allow students to learn and build skills by working intensively on one subject in small, hands-on learning environments with excellent teachers.

Students benefit from small class sizes, longer uninterrupted instructional blocks, individualized attention, project-based lessons, and teacher flexibility for learning time. The administration will commit up to \$20 million in grants for districts to operate Acceleration Academies using federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Response (ESSER) discretionary funds. This is a multi-year program that the department anticipates will impact more than 23,000 students statewide each year.

Acceleration Academies will include:

- Early Literacy Academies for incoming kindergarteners, rising 1st and 2nd graders; and
- Math Acceleration Academies for rising 3rd and 4th graders, as well as 8th and 10th graders.

Summer Learning Partnerships

DESE will also work with school districts to develop or expand summer learning opportunities that address both the academic and social-emotional impacts of COVID-19 on students, with \$8 million in grants. These programs will engage students with enrichment and recreation activities that motivate them to

build relationships in a welcoming environment that uses the knowledge, strengths, and assets of students, families, and educators in the community.

Summer Step Up

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) will support school districts to offer Summer Step Up, a program aimed at giving extra support to young learners entering school in the fall. Young children will be able to take part in summer learning opportunities developed in conjunction with community partners to help prepare them for school. Summer Step Up is an opportunity to engage young learners and accelerate learning while smoothing the transition to school for young children to provide them a stronger foundation for academic success. The administration will commit up to \$8 million to this program.

Summer Acceleration to College

High school graduates from the Class of 2022 will be able to participate in Summer Acceleration to College, a program launched last summer that provides recent graduates access to credit-bearing math and English courses at no cost to them as they prepare for college.

Fifteen community colleges in the Commonwealth will participate in this program, with approximately \$500,000 awarded in funding.

In addition to these programs, the Baker-Polito Administration will also:

- Help camps and community organizations expand educational enrichment as part of their existing summer programs by making \$12 million in funding available.
- Provide early literacy tutoring grants this summer and during the 2022-23 school year, funded at \$2 million.
- Launch a new K-8 Math Acceleration program to help teachers increase student learning over the summer and throughout the school year, funded at \$6 million.
- Expand the Biggest Winner Math Challenge to serve

approximately 2,500 gifted math students, funded at approximately \$2.5 million.

- Offer college courses over the summer for rising high school juniors and seniors who are enrolled in approved Early College programs, funded at approximately \$1 million.

- Offer the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Summer Enhancement Grant internship program to support high school and college students interested in careers in education, funded at \$500,000.

To learn more about summer programs or how to apply for a grant, please contact DESESummerProgramming@mass.gov.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife visit 27 bear dens, advise against people feeding them

“Our biologists visited 27 black bear dens this winter to place radio tracking collars on adult female bears and collect important data. We learn a lot about bear activity from reviewing location data from radio collars, as well as their size documented during den visits.

? Bears spend more time in neighborhoods when supplemental food like birdseed and unsecured garbage is available.

? Bears in suburban areas are larger than bears in rural, forested areas.

? Bears are increasingly denning near homes and businesses.

Human food sources are harmful to bears’ natural diets and put

communities at added risk of unwanted conflicts.



Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife photo.

Every winter, MassWildlife biologists visit the dens of female black bears, known as sows, who have been previously fitted with radio tracking collars. Sows may be in their dens alone, with newborn cubs, or with yearling cubs born the previous winter. Biologists assess the condition of the bears, count the newborn cubs, and confirm the survival of the yearlings born the previous winter. These valuable data on survival and reproduction help biologists model whether black bear populations are growing, declining, or remaining stable.

Winter dens can be a hollow tree or log, rock crevice, or a ground nest under fallen trees or brush. Once they locate a den, biologists immobilize the sow and gather information such as body condition, weight, and sex of cubs. They also evaluate collars for proper fit and function and replace them when needed. This past winter, biologists visited 27 dens. Discoveries included one sow with no cubs, four two-year-old females wearing yearling collars, 10 females with yearlings, and 11 females with newborn cubs. Sows ranged in age from two

to 16 years old.

Black bear cubs are born small, blind, and helpless. To give the mother a chance to bond with her cubs and for the cubs grow, MassWildlife waits until the end of February before visiting dens of sows with newborns. The eleven females averaged 2.54 cubs, with one sow having 4 cubs.

MassWildlife Black Bear and Furbearer Biologist Dave Wattles noted that biologists can learn a lot about bear activity from reviewing location data collected from radio collars, as well as their size documented during den visits. "One key finding is that the female bears we study in more suburban areas are very large, with weights averaging more than 250 pounds," he shared, "compared to bears in more rural, forested areas averaging closer to 150 pounds."

A second big takeaway from this winter's research was how close to people bears will den. Wattles added, "We had bear dens 10 yards off the back parking lot of a fire department, under a building on piling foundations, on the edge of a backyard, and in the middle of a construction yard. These bears had plenty of options to den in more remote locations but chose not to." Both observations indicate bears are finding supplemental food sources in suburban areas, such as unsecured garbage, bird feeders, and open compost. Human food sources are harmful to bears' natural diets and put communities at added risk of unwanted conflicts.

As bear population densities continue to increase in central Massachusetts, and ranges continue to expand east of I-495, it is more important than ever for people to use best practices to coexist. You can help keep bears healthy (and keep people safe) by removing bird feeders, securing all garbage and compost, feeding pets indoors, and protecting backyard bees and chickens with electric fencing. When bears do NOT find easier-access food sources near people's neighborhoods, they learn to spend less time in these places, which reduces risks

for people and bears.

Learn more here.” -Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.

Massachusetts State Police offer residents and visitors important water safety tips

“The Massachusetts State Police Marine Unit would like to remind residents of, and visitors to, Massachusetts about some important water safety tips for the spring season.

The forecast for inland Massachusetts is sunny skies with average temperatures above 80 degrees Thursday through Monday, while temperatures in some Coastal Massachusetts communities are expected to rise above 80 degrees on Saturday and Sunday.

Water temperatures are currently around 47 degrees. When extremely cold water temperatures combine with very warm air temperatures, swimmers are susceptible to serious, potentially tragic, problems.

People who dive into very cold water on a very warm day may experience involuntarily inhalation which, in severe instances, can lead to drowning. Additionally, the body's attempts to regulate temperature can cause rapid onset of fatigue, which can also lead to drowning. Symptoms of cold water shock to watch for include immediate and involuntary gasping, hyperventilation, panic, and vertigo.

Bottom line: people shouldn't be swimming in the ocean, ponds, or lakes until the water to air temperature gap is decreased.

Please enjoy the beautiful weather this weekend, but do so safely." -Massachusetts State Police.