

Senior Drew Kelly of Dartmouth's Bishop Stang High School to Swim Division 1 at the College of the Holy Cross

Bishop Stang Senior Drew Kelly of Dartmouth signed a National Letter of Intent to join the Division 1 men's swim program at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. Drew's parents Jim and Pam Kelly, family members, teammates and friends, along with leadership from Bishop Stang were present for the signing.

Drew swims the IM, with specialties in the backstroke and breaststroke, and participates in several relays for the boys' swim team at Bishop Stang. He has already qualified for states in multiple events during his Senior, season. He was Fall River Herald all-star, on the Standard Times Super Team and an EAC Champion as a Junior.

After a year-long search to find the right fit both athletically and academically, Drew committed to swim for Coach Jeff Barlok at Holy Cross. Drew knew he wanted to attend the school after visiting the campus and spending time with his future teammates. It was a great fit for him academically as well, with his aspirations of becoming a dentist. Drew is following a legacy by choosing Holy Cross, as the nephew of Bishop Stang Hall of Famer Erin Hoyer (BSHS '91, HC '95), who also attended Holy Cross and went onto dental school.

Drew is grateful for the opportunity that Bishop Stang has offered him in the pool and in the classroom. Drew's swim coaches and teammates have benefitted from the sense of purpose he brings to practices and meets. Academically, his guidance counselor Nicole Dias stated, "Drew is a high-

achieving and goal oriented student.” His parents, Jim and Pam, are excited that Drew has achieved this goal, but not terribly surprised because he has always been driven towards his goals, and willing to put in the work to succeed.

The signing took place at Bishop Stang High School in North Dartmouth, MA. Contact Bishop Stang Athletic Director, Dennis Golden for more details on the National Letter of Intent at dgolden@bishopstang.com or (508) 996-5602 x 427.



Family: Left to Right: Jim Kelly, Drew Kelly, Pam Kelly, Cousin Kelsey Rezendes.

Alma del Mar Accepting 6th Grade Applications in New Bedford

Alma del Mar is now accepting 6th Grade applications for the 2020-21 school year!

As their Frederick Douglass Campus continues to grow, they are thrilled to be able to offer 6th Grade as a second entry point for New Bedford children. Alma anticipates admitting 100 new 6th graders for the 2020-21 school year. **APPLY TODAY** by filling out an application **HERE**.

All applications for the 2020-21 school year are due by 5:00 PM on February 24th. The lottery for the 2020-21 school year will be held on February 26, 2020 at 6:00 PM. Alma del Mar holds a lottery every year to make a new waiting list for each academic year. Please follow the link to fill out an application. You may also call us at 774-206-6827 to have an application mailed to your home.



For Immediate Release
January 24, 2020

ALMA DEL MAR FINALIZES ENROLLMENT PLAN

Sixth Grade will serve as permanent second entry point at new campus

NEW BEDFORD – Nearly 100 new sixth grade scholars, along with 100 new kindergarten-aged children, will join the Alma del Mar community in August 2020. The two grades will serve as the primary entry points for New Bedford children joining the charter public school as it continues to grow its enrollment.

Alma was awarded an additional 594 seats for a second campus

in New Bedford in January 2019. This second campus opened in August 2019 to 200 children in K-2 and sixth grade. This was the first year sixth grade was an entry point for new scholars, as kindergarten has previously served as the primary entry point since the school opened in 2011.

Alma prides itself in providing a rigorous yet highly supportive education to every scholar who walks through its doors. Alma middle schoolers are the highest performing middle schoolers on state MCAS tests in the city.

“We heard from a lot of families last spring who were looking for additional middle school options for their children,” said Will Gardner, Executive Director at Alma. “We are happy to be able to offer our middle school program to a greater number of families as we grow our enrollment. In just a few years, we will be graduating nearly 150 well-prepared eighth graders every spring.”

At full enrollment, the Douglass Campus will serve 50 children per grade in grades K-5, and 98 children per grade in grades 6-8. Alma’s Ottiwell campus will continue to serve 450 scholars in grades K-8, with 50 scholars in each grade.

The Douglass Campus’ larger sixth grade cohort will be selected as part of the school’s enrollment lottery on Feb. 26. Applications for New Bedford children entering grades Kindergarten through Eighth grade are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, and may be completed online at Alma’s website, www.almadelmar.org.

About Alma del Mar Charter Schools:

Alma del Mar Charter Schools operates two charter public schools in New Bedford. The schools are tuition-free. Alma’s mission is to put every one of our scholars on the path to college and to challenge them to be service-minded leaders. We achieve this mission by providing a demanding and supportive education to every scholar who walks through our doors. Alma

has a longer school day, a longer school year, high expectations for all scholars, and outstanding teachers from across the country. We currently serve 650 scholars across two campuses.



UMass Dartmouth Students campaign to add college textbooks to Massachusetts budget

“My name is Elliott Pawlak and I am currently a senior at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

I am a student intern with Masspirg and one mission we are working towards is making textbooks more affordable! We recently had an event where volunteers expressed their concerns with textbooks. Our goal is to inspire the community to add open textbooks and 1.5 million dollar textbook budget to the statewide budget at the end of the month!

Attached are the statements from students and we would greatly appreciate any support or publicity to aid our campaign!"

To Whom It May Concern,

Affording textbooks always has caused me a burden since attending college. Several times close family members had to bail me out during my college semesters so I can be prepared for the classes I'm already going in debt to attend. During my off time from school, I work to make some extra cash for textbooks, fees, and extra odds and ends during the semester.

As a college student who works in available time slots in between semesters, I am not breaking the bank. So when emergencies come up that take a big chunk out of your funds, it doesn't leave much left for textbooks which cost no less than 400\$ a semester, if the bookstores being generous. Luckily, there are alternate ways to get your required textbooks without leaving your pockets empty. Some professors allow open textbooks for class, not only are they free but it allows every student to begin right away with their peers. Sometimes not every student can buy the textbook during the required time and it leaves them out unless they can have a friend in class to let them borrow the material to complete assignments.

Unfortunately, online classes and textbooks with access codes require every student to buy the material or they cannot complete homework assignments. The solution to this issue

exists, we just need to implement it.

Very Respectfully,

Jack Corley

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 22'

College is a great opportunity for anyone and can be extremely beneficial for careers, networking, and social skills. That being said, it comes at a great price. Since 1980, the cost of college tuition has increased at 260% the rate of inflation causing many prospective students to be hesitant to attend the school they desire and sometimes college at all. Aside from the rapidly increasing price of tuition, the price of textbooks has skyrocketed. Prices of textbooks have increased 812% the rate of inflation since 1980 and are vital to a student's success.

The average price of textbooks is between \$200-\$400; and with most students taking 5 classes, this price adds up in the blink of an eye. As a college student, coming across this type of money to afford these books every semester can be stressful, extremely difficult, and ridiculous. Being a full-time student, it is hard to balance schoolwork and a job; which leaves many students unable to afford these books. As a senior, I have had to drop many classes due to textbook prices and have struggled for 4 years in attempts to afford textbooks, bills, and life in general. We need to grant more Universities support systems to help professors make the switch away from traditional expensive textbooks. Students are losing opportunities for success by dropping classes that they cannot afford. Students need our state to help us achieve academic, social, and personal greatness.

Very Respectfully,

Andrew CaraDonna

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 20'

I am a Junior in college and one of my biggest financial troubles each semester is how much books and access codes cost. Each semester it ranges anywhere from \$300-\$800 just so I can study and do homework. Half the time Professors say books are required for the course and then by week two and everyone has a book, the get buried and never needed again. And just like that, \$100 dollars, down the drain. But then other times we actually do use the textbook, and if you don't dish out the \$100 plus for it then you fail the course. For some majors, it's even worse. Several of my Nursing student friends spend \$200-\$300 per book!

For college students living on a budget, this causes many problems throughout the semester, especially if you need to pay tuition too. For some, they choose between being able to afford food and necessities vs. book costs. I myself had to do this last semester and my grades noticeably went down close to a full letter grade. But it was either that or as the professors said "if you can't afford the book/access code, drop the class". And that wouldn't do any good because I still need to take the classes anyway and I already spent a lot of money to attend anyway.

I'm not one to ask for free anything, that's just not how the world works, but for new and very poor college students to have these unnecessary expenses that can be eliminated by utilizing open textbooks. These would be free for both faculty and students; making college economically easier and help bring stability to college student lives.

Very Respectfully,

Carl Hyatt

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 21'

MASSPIRG

Do you remember the cost of college? Since 1980 the cost of college tuition has increased at 260% the rate of inflation causing many prospective students to be hesitant to attend the school they desire and sometimes college at all. However, there is another fee which is rising even faster. The price of textbooks has increased 812% the rate of inflation since 1980 and is vital to a student's success. The average price of textbooks is between \$200-\$400; combining to generate an average cost of \$1000-\$1200 a semester for a full course load.

Personally, I have spent about \$8,000 on textbooks to achieve graduating with a bachelor's degree. So how can we fix this? We need to grant more Universities support systems to help professors make the switch away from traditional expensive textbooks. Students are losing opportunities for success by dropping classes that they cannot afford. The solution exists, we just need to apply it.

Very Respectfully,

Elliott Pawlak

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 20'

MASSPIRG

We all know that the average cost of college is currently at a very high amount with most being in the tens of thousands for most states. However, one of the hidden costs that is less well known to incoming students is the cost of textbooks.

Coming from a low-income family I had to rely on financial aid and scholarships to pay for most of my college bills but during my first semester, it didn't cover the price of books which was around 700\$, a price that I didn't know I would have to pay until the first day of the semester. I almost couldn't afford these books and without them, I would have failed my first semester.

If textbooks were priced cheaper or have been distributed in

an open source way my first interaction with college would have been more focused on my studies and education rather than worrying about how I am going to pay for books that without I would have no way of succeeding. Students shouldn't have all these costs when there are methods and ways of providing the same resources without the insane costs.

Very Respectfully,

Nathan Silveira

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 20'

MASSPIRG

Do you know that some students only rely on their financial aid to pay for their college expenses and they have minimal to no money in their pockets to pay for other stuff in college? By other stuff I mean textbooks.

According to NBC's review of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data, textbook prices have risen over three times the rate of inflation from January 1977 to June 2015, a 1,041 percent increase. When I first came to college, I didn't expect to pay around 350 dollars for textbooks.

All my classes needed me to have textbooks and they all cost me a ridiculous amount of money. One of the solutions I think that might help faculty and students is that to provide them with a source of free textbooks or to provide them a way of getting free textbooks to the university they go to. I think that providing students with free textbooks will encourage students to go to the university they want to without thinking about the burden of spending money out of their pockets.

Muhammad J Shaikh

Computer Science Major

University of Massachusetts

I am drowning in thousands of dollars in debt, and I'm only 21 years old. I cannot continue to pay for my textbooks on top of my college tuition, even with financial aid and a part-time job, I struggle to afford my education. After we pay our university, we should not have to pay out of pocket for resources to our education which we are already financing. Students are forced to drop classes, take fewer classes and as a result, stay in school longer, and use money intended for personal necessities on textbooks.

The solution to this situation that we were forced into is open textbooks, which would be free and easy to access. Students would have more academic and financial freedoms with this system in place. Not only would we be able to access information and knowledge with ease, but our anxieties could rest knowing we are in a comfortable place financially.

Professors should be put in a position to use these programs, or at least be given the choice. Students should be able to gather information from textbooks without worrying about the financial burden it is causing. We need policies that make these goals possible, and with that we would see an improvement in students academically, financially and mentally. The college students of today are burdened with the rising cost of textbooks, we know the solution and will demand it be implemented.

Very Respectfully,

Lexi Angus

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 20'

MASSPIRG

When I first came to UMASS Dartmouth as a freshman, I was not worried about being financially unstable, but that changed when I realized how expensive textbooks are.

My first semester here I spent over 200 dollars on textbooks required for my class. I was uneducated on the cost of textbooks and how much of an impact it would have on me. I became unable to pay for things that I needed because I had purchased books for my classes. I no longer had the option to buy items outside of necessities because my spending money went into my academics.

I very clearly saw the impact that expensive textbooks had on me and my fellow classmates. Some students had to pick only a few classes instead of being a fulltime student because they couldn't afford the books. Some students purposely took classes that had cheap or no textbook requirements even if the class did not benefit their passions and goals. Students were then separated into classes where you could either afford textbooks or you couldn't, and unfortunately, a lot of students are forced to change their schedule and their career goals in order to afford the resources needed.

Students are suffering academically and financially and missing opportunities within their university. Education shouldn't make students unable to afford to go to school, which is what's happening. If we had open textbooks we would have more access to knowledge and students would be able to focus on their studies rather than focusing on their financial situation.

Education should be expression and free of a financial burden. Textbooks should be little to no money, if not free for students. Classes that use open textbooks have better student participation because the students are comfortable knowing they can afford their books. We have the solution to our problem, we need to continue fighting the rising cost of textbooks to make education manageable for college students.

Very Respectfully,

Mason Baacke

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 20'

Free or reduced-priced textbooks would take immense stress off of students and faculty. As a student myself, I often find myself strapped to pay for books, even with a part-time job. E

very semester I end up paying hundreds of dollars for books that I only use for a few months. This is after paying my own tuition, tens of thousands of dollars. The amount of money that is expected from students is nearly impossible. Not only do we not just magically have it, loans are often denied without a co-signer. When they are approved, they have ridiculous interest rates that have to start being paid back just six months after graduating, when most people are still searching for a well-paying first job.

Taking the heavy price of textbooks off of students shoulders would leave well-deserved money in their pockets, and take stress off of those who don't have any extra money at all. Working a part-time job as a student barely gives you enough money to pay for gas and groceries, and defiantly does not give you enough money to dump on books. I have often found that people will even drop a class if the professor is making students buy multiple expensive books.

Students can't take classes that they need for their major or that they are interested because they can't afford the books. It is just not possible for students to produce this kind of money. Not only do students have to pay for books, they have to pay for pens, pencils, paper, folders, notebooks, calculators, binders, erasers, pencil sharpeners, and even more. By supplying students with textbooks, students would be happier and relieved. It is a necessity and an issue that needs to be addressed.

Very Respectfully,

Sara Russo

Umass Dartmouth '21

While the textbook dilemma does not seem like an extremely relevant issue and often becomes subject to oversight within the political arena: today I am writing to you with the hopes you read my testimonial and come to understand the importance of being able to access the very tool I need to gain the abundance of knowledge I am expected to obtain no matter if my financial situation interferes.

Frankly, this issue has reached new heights – as the price of a college education rises the growing need for students to buy books that coordinate with their classes rises. This competitive environment aids the wealthy or well off and completely ostracizes those that are money conscious or within a level of poverty and do not have the opportunity to spend money on such luxuries.

This is leading to a potential complete educational divide and for the future success of our nation and the present students who will become and run this nation it is imperative for the educational system to not silence or exclude individuals that have the potential to change the world due to the flimsy and unequal qualification – access to money.

By you helping us, college students, fight this issue you will be decreasing a feeling of anxiety and fear almost all students feel when professors send out textbook needs. Your presence matters and we greatly appreciate anything and everything you can do to help us.

Very Respectfully,

Lauren Talbot

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 22'

As a third-year college student from a single-parent home, affording my education has been a feat to say the least. I currently have a past due balance of over \$11,000 at my

school, but I'm still going to classes and trying to keep a positive mindset until they send me home next week, as we approach the final deadline of many.

This \$2.5M textbook fund- and frankly, any fund- would benefit me tremendously. There are so many internal and external costs of this tertiary education- not to mention my student loans- that add extra stress to a process that is supposed to be encouraging and full of hope for creating a better future for myself.

I am currently a junior who is re-taking my sophomore year subjects because the fear of not being able to afford my education moving forward riddled me with anxiety and exhausting- leading to failure. Still, I manage to rise above and put my best foot forward. I was so happy to hear about the possibility of a fund dedicated to making college affordable for an engineering student like me who purchases online subscriptions, lab-books, and textbooks every semester.

I know that my peers and I would benefit greatly from this and I hope you can pass this bill so that I can continue on my path to becoming a productive member of society, equipped to solve the myriad of problems that our government and corporations have caused and burned us with. As a woman and person of color, the obstacles I face on a daily basis in basic and complex everyday matters is saddening.

The issues in our society trickling down from decisions made in the legislative, judiciary and executive branches of our government are beyond me. And education is the only vehicle through which my generation can fix our dying earth, society, morals and country. I hope you are touched by my story, my words and my plight. Thank you for your time and your efforts so far.

Sincerely,

A young impressionable college Junior, looking for leaders to

represent me

Kiersten Kerr

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 21'

MASSPIRG STUDENTS

Education has become an integral part of our society and is arguably the greatest steppingstone towards success and contribution back into our community, but at what cost?

College students are sacrificing both their physical and mental health to simply be able to afford their course materials. Global education company Cengage, which many students are all too familiar with (I've paid upwards of \$500 to them for my textbooks), conducted a survey and found 43% of college students have skipped meals just to pay for required materials for their classes, and 31% are taking less courses to lessen the burden.

This also has an effect on which classes we take, which in turn affects our futures. Students that aren't able to afford textbooks at all end up failing their classes, no matter their capability or work ethic. It is simply unfair that students from lower to middle-income backgrounds are limited from reaching their fullest potential because overpriced textbooks are holding them back.

I'd like the state of Massachusetts to view this \$1.5-million-dollar bill towards the funding of freely accessible learning materials as not just a benefit for the students of today, but rather as an investment into the leaders of tomorrow. A study done by Georgetown University found that 35% of jobs in the market require at least a bachelor's degree, and another 30% require at least an associate's (citation), making the majority of jobs available right now unobtainable for students who are failing out due to the lack of affordability of textbooks and materials.

Essentially we're missing out on witnessing some of the great minds of this young generation over a few thousand dollars, which is minuscule in comparison to the budget of our government. \$1.5 million spread across the state and across majors would literally change lives, allowing for students to graduate from college healthier, happier, and able to achieve their dreams.

As a sophomore at UMass Dartmouth, I've faced many of the similar issues college students across the nation have gone through for decades. The price of textbooks for my classes have only increased stress, as I need to take more hours at my part-time job to be able to afford them, which limits the amount of time I have to study and holding me back from my full capability. I know I'm not the only one, as nearly all of my friends face the same exact issue. This raises a final question: are the legislators of this great state of Massachusetts willing to invest in and lay the foundation for the future of the United States, or let our potential go to waste?

-Anonymous

New Bedford Fire Department to Receive \$13,780 in Student Awareness of Fire Education grants

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced that 248 municipal fire departments will receive nearly \$2 million in grants to fund fire safety programs geared toward children and

older adults across Massachusetts. The New Bedford Fire Department will receive \$10,655 for Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E) and \$3,125 for Senior SAFE.

Fire departments in 235 communities will receive S.A.F.E and Senior SAFE grants; six communities will receive S.A.F.E. grants only; and seven communities will receive Senior SAFE grants only.

“Since 1995, the S.A.F.E. program has brought fire education to hundreds of thousands of students in the Commonwealth,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “This program allows firefighters and teachers to work together to provide fire and life safety education to young people.”

The average number of children dying in fires annually has dropped by 76% since the S.A.F.E. Program began. The Senior SAFE program is in its 6th year, providing firefighters with the funding to deliver fire safety education to another vulnerable population – seniors.

“Home visits, smoke and CO alarm installations, and fire safety presentations at senior centers by firefighters with senior agencies help older adults develop strategies to stay safe at home for longer,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said, “The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE programs are successful because we have trained firefighters who deliver education to children and older adults. The fire departments being supported in these public education efforts are increasing the safety of the people in their communities.”

The S.A.F.E. Program provides \$1.2 million through the Executive Office of the Public Safety and Security to local fire departments. The Senior SAFE program provides \$600,000 in grant funds from fees paid by tobacco companies to the Fire Standard Compliant Cigarette Program to ensure their products meet the fire safety requirements to be sold in Massachusetts.

The programs are administered by the state's Department of Fire Services.

FY '20 SAFE and Senior SAFE grant awards

Buy or Improve Your Home With a VA Loan

If you're a member of the military, a veteran, or the qualifying spouse of a service member, a VA loan could help you finance your dream home off base. It's a benefit you've earned, and one that we'd love to explore with you in greater detail.

One of the biggest roadblocks to owning a home is saving enough money for a down payment. A survey conducted by the Home Buying Institute showed almost two-thirds of borrowers said the FHA loan's low down payment requirement was its most attractive feature.

- Buy a single-family home (up to four units).
- Buy a home and make improvements or renovations to it.
- Consolidate debt.
- Buy a condo in a VA-approved project.
- Increase your home's energy efficiency by making updates or adding new features like solar panels.

VA Loan Benefits Turn Dreams Into Reality

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers a wide array of benefits during service and after separation or retirement, but one of its most popular is the VA loan. Although every lending situation is different, VA loans often offer:

- \$0 down payment options
- Refinance up to 100% of the appraised value of the property, with options for cash-out or rate-and-term refinances
- No need for PMI (private mortgage insurance) or mortgage insurance premiums
- Better terms and interest rates
- Fewer closing costs
- No prepayment penalty fees

How Can I Qualify for a VA Loan?

Although the VA doesn't make VA loans, the U.S. government guarantees them, which means it might be easier for you to qualify. You may be able to get a VA loan if you meet these three qualifications:

- Get a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) based on your service history and duty status.
- Meet your lender's credit, income, and other requirements.
- Plan to live in the home you're buying with a VA loan.

We're Here to Help

At BayCoast Mortgage, we thank you for your service and your sacrifice. That's why no matter where you are on the home-buying journey, we're here to help you find financing that's just right for you. **Contact us** or call 877-466-2678 today and let one of our experienced BayCoast ☐Mortgage lending professionals walk beside you on your path to homeownership.

The Ferreira-Mendes

Portuguese-American Archives launch new publication examining citizenship

The UMass Dartmouth-based Archive to release *The Final Report: a History of the Portuguese American Citizenship Project* and hold discussion with project staff

The Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives will host the launch of the book, *The Final Report: a History of the Portuguese American Citizenship Project*.

Project Coordinator James McGlinchey will offer a brief talk on the report and the development of the book at the launch event that takes place from 6–7:30 p.m. on 23 January 2020 at the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives at UMass Dartmouth. Guests should use Parking Lot 13. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

The Portuguese American Citizenship Project was created to encourage Portuguese-Americans to participate more fully in civic affairs and gain a stronger voice in their own governance. The Final Report documents the Project's data-driven programs to promote adoption of U.S. citizenship, registering to vote and, most importantly, voting. These non-partisan 'Campaigns without Candidates' did not promote any political party or cause but carried the message that voting is not only a vital civil right but brings with it a greater good benefit for the entire community.

"I am looking forward to hearing about this fascinating project and the results of this sixteen yearlong study of Portuguese-American civic engagement," said Dr. Paula Celeste Gomes Novera, the new Faculty Director of the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives.

Throughout its 16 years of operation, the Project conducted non-partisan voter outreach with cultural, fraternal and religious organizations in communities located in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. During that time, the Project submitted over 50 periodic reports on its programs for its Board of Directors and principal sponsors at the Luso-American Foundation and the Regional Government of the Azores. As implied in its title, this Final Report is the last submission. McGlinchey will donate all materials from the project to the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives. Copies of the book can also be purchased online.

From 1999 to 2009, McGlinchey served as the Coordinator of the Portuguese American Citizenship Project. He worked with churches, clubs and social welfare organizations on grass-roots civic campaigns in communities ranging from factory towns in New England to farming communities in California. In 2009, McGlinchey resigned from his position but continued to serve on the Project's Board of Directors until it closed in 2016.

Alma Del Mar Charter School purchases land in the north end of New Bedford

Alma del Mar has purchased four acres of land in the Far North End of New Bedford as part of its plan to serve more than 1,000 children within the next four years at two campuses in the city. Alma purchased the land for \$680,000, all of which were charitable contributions. This deal involves the

purchase, and eventual demolition, of a home at 739 Church Street in order to create the primary egress for the new school campus.

Alma was recently awarded an additional 594 seats for a second campus in New Bedford. This second campus opened in August 2019 to 200 children in K-2 and 6th grade at its temporary location, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception's former school building.

Alma is still in the pre-development phase for a new school building to be the future home of the Frederick Douglass Campus and its eventual 594 scholar enrollment. Compass Project Management, the firm that led on the school's successful construction project in 2015-2016, will also lead on this project. Following an extensive process with the state's Designer Selection Board, Arrowstreet has been selected to lead on the architectural design of Alma's new campus.

In 2016, Alma successfully completed the construction of a similar project – a 43,000 square foot school building at 515 Belleville Avenue in the Near North End. That facility, now the Sarah D. Ottiwell Campus, allowed for Alma to grow out to its full gradespan of Kindergarten through 8th grade, with 450 scholars enrolled. That public construction project was completed on time, under budget, and brought \$12 million in New Market Tax Credits to New Bedford.

About Alma del Mar Charter Schools:

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across the country. We currently serve 650 scholars across two campuses.

Legislators honor the UMass Dartmouth-based Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives

The meet and greet brought together Portuguese-American legislators and university officials.

The Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives continued its 10th-anniversary celebrations with a legislative meet and greet reception on Monday, 16 December 2019. At the event, local Massachusetts legislators paid tribute to the former Faculty Director, Dr. Gloria de Sá, upon her retirement while also being introduced to the new Faculty Director, Dr. Paula Celeste Gomes.

At the reception, Chancellor Johnson thanked Dr. de Sá for her years of service to the University. He praised her leadership in the creation of the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives and went on to list her many accomplishments in the development of the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives collection.



Assistant Dean for Public Interest Law and External Relations John Quinn, Representative Paul Schmid, Chancellor Robert E. Johnson, Faculty Director of the Archives Dr. Paula Celeste Gomes Noversa, Dr. Gloria de Sá, Representative Tony Cabral, Representative David Vieira, Associate Librarian / Archivist Sonia Pacheco, Interim Dean of the Library Dawn Gross.

Representative Tony Cabral presented Dr. de Sá with two Citations of Recognition for her years of service, one from the House of Representatives and the other from the Senate. He commented on their years of friendship, her years of hard work, and her commitment to the community. Throughout the applause that followed, Dr. de Sá was visibly moved by the outpouring of respect and affection.

Representative Tony Cabral also presented Dr. Paula Celeste Gomes Noversa with a Citation of Recognition for the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives in honor of their 10th anniversary. While accepting the Citation, Dr. Noversa praised her predecessor and stated that she hoped to continue Dr. de Sá's work on several long-term projects at the Archives, the most significant being the digitization of the Portuguese language newspapers from across the United States.

During her comments, Faculty Director Noversa noted that UMass

Dartmouth resides in the most densely populated Portuguese-American region in the country. She went on to state, “We, the University and the Massachusetts legislature, serve the same community. When we are at odds with each other, we do them a disservice. We serve them better when we work together.”

She went on to say, “the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives has as its mission the preservation of the documents that bear witness to the history of the Portuguese-American community throughout the United States. I look forward to building upon the work of my predecessor and forging ahead with new and exciting projects.”

New Bedford High School launches Financial Services Lab

With representatives of the region’s banking and workforce sectors looking on, school officials marked the opening today of New Bedford High School’s state-of-the-art Financial Services Laboratory with a ribbon cutting ceremony and tour of the facility.

The NBHS Financial Services Laboratory is a major capital project supported by the school’s award of a \$125,000 Massachusetts Workforce Skills Capital Grant earlier in 2019. The lab occupies newly renovated and conjoined classroom space situated in the heart of the school’s central core, adjacent to the school store. The lab will serve as the hub for financial services education connected to the school’s Academy of Finance.

Finance Lab equipment includes stock tickers, 4k touchscreen monitors, advanced computer systems, and two banks of soft seating to serve as collaboration stations.

Superintendent Thomas Anderson noted “this facility adds enormous capability to New Bedford High’s Academy of Finance programs. Through it students will be introduced to the principles of finance, investment and international trade in a real world context.”

“We are excited to officially open our finance lab today, and look forward to our students engaging in rich financial services projects”, said Bernadette Coelho, NBHS Headmaster. “We are grateful for Governor Baker’s support of our Workforce Skills Capital grant award that made this advanced technical learning environment possible.”

“Our grant award was driven toward developing a laboratory that prepares students for success within the high priority labor growth area of financial services”, said Christopher Cummings Manager of CVTE. “Our new finance lab, which we intend to be the flagship training center for this industry, will help us maximize these career opportunities”, he added.

New Bedford High School launches Financial Services Lab

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