

LEADERSHIP SOUTHCOAST TEAM PROJECTS CLASS OF 2008

1) **Building Boards**

Members: Gail Fortes, Sarah Gonet

Recognizing that there is a real lack of diversity (age, ethnicity, sex, area of expertise) on the boards of local non-profits, this project focuses on creating and executing a tangible plan to recruit, train, and build the boards of organizations in Greater New Bedford.

2) **First Generation College Enrollment**

Members: Maria Cordeiro, David Chandler

This project focuses on simplifying the college application and enrollment process for first generation and at-risk students by rewriting the students' guide. This guide will have websites for FAFSA and local colleges and universities with updated information which is clearer and easier to understand for applicants for whom this is a first-time experience.

3) **Philanthropy as an Innovative Solution to Building Nursing Capacity**

Members: Carmen Aguilar, Julie Kelly, Susan Oldrid

This project will focus on exploring philanthropy partnerships between clinical facilities and academia as a means of increasing the number of nurses for the future. the project will explore the feasibility of joint solicitation of grateful benefactors to help fund clinical instructors and tuition for employees in clinical settings who are interested in obtaining an RN, BSN, or MSN degrees.

4) **Green Thumb Project**

Members: Robert Barboza, Richard Couse, Jennifer Holske, Marie-Frances Rivera

The purpose of this project is to help increase awareness of agriculture/sustainability, promote community participation, and provide youth with skill-building opportunities and positive experiences. Reconnecting people and increasing their awareness of the importance for sustainable natural systems, especially food systems, would contribute towards creating a livable and prosperous SouthCoast.

5) **High School Drop-Out Prevention Initiative**

Members: Beth Caldwell, Michael Roy, Dennis Wyatt

The focus of this project is to help reduce the drop-out rate of high school students in the southcoast region. The high drop-out rate continuously contributes to the growing unskilled labor force that lacks the ability to compete for jobs that require a higher skill set.

6) **The New Bedford Leadership of Color Council (NBLCC)**

Members: Yolanda Baird, James Cobbs

The mission of the New Bedford Leadership of Color Council is to examine selected policies, practices, and programs affecting people of color in the New Bedford region and assess the impact of such policies. The primary areas of concern for the NBLCC are to increase educational access, decrease drop-out rates, increase opportunities, economic development, as well as to develop an awareness for people of color, particularly with regard to social justice, educational access, and retention.