



# 2024

## ANNUAL REPORT

# Our Mission

*To enrich the lives of our faculty, students, staff, and community through service-learning, active citizenship, meaningful community service, engaged scholarship, and mutually-beneficial partnerships.*

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***"The rise of powerful Artificial Intelligence will either be the best or worst thing ever to happen to humanity."***

**- Stephen Hawking**

Dear Friends,

Here is a confession... I used ChatGPT (or Artificial Intelligence) to compose this introductory message. It took me only 5 minutes and most of that was in cutting, pasting and minor editing. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is making much of what we do easier and eliminating the need for human effort in many of the tasks we used to perform regularly. Information has become a very easily obtainable commodity and because of the laws of supply and demand it is cheap. This raises the question ... What can we teach students that will be of value for them in the future?

AI cannot replace many of the most valuable lessons that students learn while in college. Some people refer to these as soft skills. The ability to use information combined with emotional intelligence is perhaps the most important thing we can teach this generation. It is also lacking as most young people limited their interaction with others during the pandemic. The ability to understand one's feelings and to empathize with others in different situations is now the most critical skill we can teach anyone. Not surprisingly service-learning and community service coupled with reflection lead to the opportunity to learn more about one's feelings and learn how to empathize with others less fortunate than us.

One of the ideals of the Leduc Center is to have our students develop an identity that is larger than their career. So, we would love for them to say "I'm an accountant, artist, biologist, engineer, nurse etc... and I volunteer at (fill in the blank)." Our gifts are not just meant for our financial well-being but to be generously shared with humanity. We work hard to develop meaningful curricular and co-curricular activities that when coupled with reflection help students to see the positive impacts of their gifts on others.

This report has been designed to provide a snapshot of our activities for the 2023-24 academic year. It is representative of our ideal - that through service we can brighten our lives and our futures. The



Professional Headshot Created by Ai?

data presented shows the impact on our students and our community. We tried a different format this year – more stories and personal highlights and less of that commodity I referred to earlier – information. I did NOT use AI to write this welcome! That was a ploy to get you to read on. Hopefully, you will find this report uplifting. When we serve others, we live more happy and meaningful lives. We are eternally grateful for your willingness to partner with us in this journey of service.

Yours in Service,

**Matthew H. Roy, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Vice Chancellor for Career & Civic Engagement*

# STAFF & SUPPORT

**Matthew H. Roy, Ph.D.**

**Deirdre Healy**

**Gary Marden**

**Medora LaPlante**

**Megan Lambert**

*Assistant Vice Chancellor for Career & Civic Engagement*

*Director, Community Service & Partnerships*

*Civic Engagement Program Officer*

*Administrative Assistant*

*Jumpstart Site Manager*

## Advisory Board

### COMMUNITY MEMBERS

**Carl Alves**

Positive Action Against Chemical Abuse (PAACA)

**Nicholas Christ**

BayCoast Bank

**Jack Chopoorian**

Retired Chancellor Professor of Marketing

**Joseph Cordeiro**

Retired New Bedford Police Chief

**Elizabeth Duffy**

Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services

**Julie Gagliardi '87**

SouthCoast Community Foundation

**Michelle Hantman**

United Way of Greater New Bedford

**Jeanne Leduc**

Retired ER Nurse

**Robert Leduc '78**

Retired CEO

**Rev. David Lima**

Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford

**Rep. Christopher Markey**

Massachusetts House of Representatives

**Jim Mathes**

Dennison Memorial Community Center

**Bill Perkins**

Retired CEO of People, Inc.

**Denise Porche**

The Island Foundation

**Gina Purtell**

Allen's Pond Wildlife Sanctuary

**Michele Roberts**

Bristol County Savings Bank

**Sen. Michael Rodrigues**

Massachusetts State Senate

**Dr. Bruce Rose**

Retired Asst. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Corinn Williams**

Community Economic Development Center

### UNIVERSITY MEMBERS

**Dr. Carlos Benavides**

Global Languages and Cultures Chairperson

**Paula Cruz '14**

Boston Children's Hospital

**Joshua Encarnacion '14**

Leadership Development Consultant

**Dr. Memory Holloway**

Professor Emerita

**Narcisse Kunda '22**

State Street Corporation

**Dr. Jean MacCormack**

Chancellor Emerita

**Dr. John Quinn**

UMass School of Law

**Peter Schock '12**

Boston Consulting Group

**Maggie Sullivan '21**

Henry Lord Community School

**Matthew Witzgall '15**

Carl's Collision Center



## Team Members

**Gianna Barbosa '24**  
*Psychology*  
Leader at Large



**Christopher Castro '26**  
*Political Science*  
Leader at Large



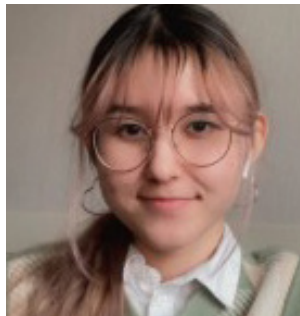
**Destin Erickson '24**  
*Graphic Design*  
Photographer



**Karen Ferreira '27**  
*Portuguese*  
Leader at Large



**Amanda Harlfinger '22**  
Community Engagement  
Specialist



**Soma Sekher Sahith Koganti '25**  
Business Analytics (MBA)  
Corsair Engage Specialist



**Arnold Moore Jr. '27**  
*Communication*  
Leader at Large



**Colleen Murphy '24**  
*Psychology*  
Leader at Large



# SERVICE-LEARNING

## Service-Learning

Service-Learning (SL) is defined at UMass Dartmouth as a pedagogical method used in credit-bearing courses that is designed with the dual mission of:

- a) Student attainment of discipline-specific knowledge through creatively designed, active-learning community based projects and
- b) Community benefit through the thoughtful identification and completion of community-based service.

The methodology of Service-Learning requires:

- a) A clear link between academic objectives and service experience that is mutually beneficial to the goals of the course and community need.
- b) Student reflection as a means to gain a greater understanding of course content and a broader sense of civic responsibility.

### 2023-2024 Faculty Fellows

**Caitlin Amaral**, *English & Communication*

**Roni Amit**, *Law*

**Sankha Bhowmick**, *Biomedical Engineering*

**Jennifer Dekkers**, *Management & Marketing*

**Aleta Deyo**, *Fashion Design*

**Laura Hanzly**, *Bioengineering*

**Lara Henderson**, *Art & Design*

**Thomas Hertweck**, *English & Communication*

**Jamie Jacquart**, *Sustainability*

**Genevieve Kozak**, *Biology*

**Vanessa Lovelace**, *Crime & Justice Studies*

**Abigail Masi**, *Interior Architecture & Design*

**Kathryn Wassel**, *Public Policy*

**Ruolin Zhou**, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*

### Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program

Students' exposure to SL pedagogy requires faculty understanding of and commitment to this method of teaching. The primary means to develop faculty knowledgeable in SL methods has been through The Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program, which has grown from 6 faculty members in FY2008/09 to a total of 143 faculty members trained to date.

## Academic Year 2023-24 At a Glance

**8,329\***

*students were exposed to service-learning*

**184**

*faculty members taught a service-learning course*

**559**

*service-learning class sections offered*

**83.7%**

*of the class of 2024 had a service-learning experience*

*\*Duplicated Count*



# SERVICE-LEARNING

## Service Learning Integration in Classrooms

In alignment with the Leduc Center for Civic Engagement's mission to integrate intellectual talents and pursuits with the needs of the community, 184 faculty members incorporate service-learning into their classrooms during 2023-2024. This initiative allowed students to engage in practical, community-based projects that complement their academic studies. This hands-on approach not only enhances their education but also fosters a sense of civic responsibility and connection to the community. Projects from those classes included:



On December 13, UMass Dartmouth students from the College of Engineering (COE) and the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) gathered at the Fall River Government Center to present their proposals for how to develop the Fall River waterfront. In attendance were a number of city officials including Mayor Paul Coogan '76, City Engineer Dan Aguiar '94, City Administrator Seth Aitken, Director of Community Utilities Paul Ferland '06, and members of the Fall River Redevelopment Authority. David Lunny of the global architecture firm Stantec, who recently won the bid to manage the waterfront redevelopment project, was also in attendance.

The students' presentations marked the culmination of a semester-long collaboration between COE and CVPA. Professors Jonathan Mellor (civil and environmental engineering) and Stephanie McGoldrick (interior architecture and design) teamed up to offer their students the chance to take on a project with real-world implications. UMass Dartmouth's partnership with the city of Fall River was facilitated by the Leduc Center for Civic Engagement. ***"We see our role as maximizing the active learning opportunities of our faculty and students that benefit the community."*** said Assistant Vice Chancellor for Career & Civic Engagement Matthew Roy.

Working in teams composed of both engineers and designers, students were tasked with creating plans for how to develop that land into a walkable neighborhood that will become a commercial and recreational destination for city residents and visitors alike. Using the city's vision as a guide, the teams developed detailed proposals that addressed community needs, accessibility requirements, sustainability standards, climate mitigation and resilience, and economic viability.

Among the most important factors taken into account are the short- and long-term effects of climate change on the waterfront property. ***"Civil engineers and architects are on the front lines of climate adaptation and mitigation, and how cities adjust to the effects of climate change and take steps to reduce the severity of future damage,"*** said Mellor, who teaches a civil engineering course on climate resilience.

Proposed uses for the land include a performing arts center, an amphitheater, festival space, art studios, restaurants, gardens and green space, retail shops, a boutique hotel, outdoor recreation areas, and more. In the age of social media, teams also considered how Instagram-worthy murals and photo opportunities could help market the space and attract visitors.

The Fall River waterfront redevelopment project demonstrated the value of interdisciplinary collaboration and exposed students to the realities of a large-scale operation. In addition to developing their plans, students gained practice pitching to a client, considering the diverse constituencies who will be affected, and working together with team members from different fields.

***"These disciplines don't exist in silos,"*** McGoldrick said. ***"Most projects in the field are interdisciplinary. In the 'real world,' you'll be working together with teams of different kinds of experts to get things done. So, for our interior architecture and design students, this interaction with engineers is valuable."***

***"One of the most rewarding aspects of this project was working with civil engineers,"*** said interior architecture and design student Morgan Palm '24. ***"As interior architecture and design students, we're used to working with indoor spaces, so this was a much bigger challenge. It was fascinating to see how our different perspectives affect one another as we figure out all the moving parts."***

***"This is one of the biggest redevelopment projects in the SouthCoast region. We are pleased to know that our city can depend on UMass Dartmouth as a partner."***

**- Mayor Paul Coogan '76**

# SERVICE-LEARNING

## Marketing Plans for New Bedford Businesses



This Spring, 25 senior marketing majors enrolled in "MKT 441: Marketing Management" functioned as a nonprofit marketing agency, working with local businesses in New Bedford through the NB100! program to create marketing plans for organizations. Organizations included: PLAY Arcade, Capri Home Decor, Oshun Physical Therapy & Pelvic Health, Aviary Books, and Banner and Bone Tattoo.

*"Most of these businesses are small operations with one owner and no marketing support. I believe it's a valuable experience and connection for both students and local business, and I hope it continues in the future."* said course instructor, Jeanne Girard.

During the semester, students in the class helped to create a promotional video for PLAY Arcade's social media accounts, outlined a brand identity for Capri Home Decor, helped to build brand awareness for Aviary Books, and worked with Banner and Bone tattoo to highlight their artists' personalities and recent achievements to better connect with their customers.

***"This course has helped us understand a day in the life of a marketer. It reinforced all the tools and business lessons we've learned over the years, and also let us show our creative side. This class has been the final piece that connected my entire college journey and all I've learned here at UMassD."***

**- Vanessa Pino '24**

*Portions of this article are from the UMass Dartmouth Office of Public Affairs on April 18, 2024*



## Assessment of SL

Each year the Leduc Center surveys students across all the colleges to determine the impact of SL classes on civic knowledge, skills, and abilities; class learning objectives; and desire to stay at UMassD. The data has been overwhelmingly positive. This academic year we surveyed 230 students.

College participants in Table I reported improvements in their civic skills following their involvement in service-learning classes. The table below illustrates the differences in civic skills before and after program participation. The means are based on a 5-point scale, ranging from 1 ("I cannot do this at all") to 5 ("I can do this very well"). The mean scores of skills before and after program participation were compared using a paired samples t-test.

**Table I**

Civic Skills	Pre-mean Skill Score	Post-mean Skill Score
Identify needs and resources of the community.*	3.27	4.08
Apply knowledge and skills gained to real problems/opportunities in my community.*	3.50	4.20
Make connections between learning and issues/needs of the community.*	3.53	4.21
Articulate the value of engagement to other members of the community.*	3.47	4.08
Communicate effectively orally and in writing.*	3.82	4.34
Evaluate and integrate information from multiple sources.*	3.84	4.39
Organize other students to take action on a community problem.*	3.16	3.84
Create a plan to address the issue.*	3.56	4.17
Get people to care about the problem.*	3.38	4.03
Organize and run a meeting.*	3.27	3.93
Find and examine research related to the issue.*	3.62	4.19
Apply what I learned in my service-learning class.*	3.51	4.27

\* $p < .001$

The t-test results indicate a positive relationship between participation in service-learning classes and reported gains in civic skills related to addressing social problems. As shown in Table 1, all civic skills improvements were statistically significant at the .001 level. This clearly demonstrates the positive impact that students believe service-learning has had on their ability to use their UMass Dartmouth education to meet community needs both now and in the future.

# LITERACY PROGRAMS

## America Reads & Counts

The America Reads\*Counts program at UMass Dartmouth connects university students with local community centers, elementary schools, and preschools to provide classroom support, tutoring, and mentoring for struggling and at-risk youth. Studies indicate that children who do not achieve a third-grade reading level by the end of third grade often fall behind their peers, making early intervention crucial.

### History

America Reads, a national literacy campaign initiated in 1996, challenges every American to help children learn to read well and independently. America Counts, launched in 1999, aims to improve young students' achievements in mathematics. UMass Dartmouth's America Reads\*Counts program began in 1998, thanks to AmeriCorps VISTA Blanca Ramirez. In 2001, Deirdre Healy succeeded Blanca Ramirez, and under her leadership, the program has more than tripled in size.

Over the program's 26-year history, an estimated 2,755 students have contributed over 573,500 hours of tutoring to 21,000-grade school students in our region. These efforts have set SouthCoast youth up for success, particularly in the wake of COVID-19 learning disruptions. One analysis found that Massachusetts students lost significant learning time during the pandemic, translating to potential long-term financial impacts without intervention.

### Objectives:

- Increase local students' understanding of mathematics from pre-K through 5th grade.
- Raise reading levels of local children from pre-K through 5th grade.
- Foster a desire for secondary and higher education in local children.
- Enhance university students' community involvement.
- Strengthen the partnership between the university and the local community.



***"Adapting to the diverse cultures and personalities of my students enhanced my confidence and will provide a solid foundation for my future."***

**- Selem Termine '27**

## **2023-2024 At a Glance**

**99**

*America Reads Tutors*

**600**

*Children Served*

**5,337**

*Hours of Service*

**7**

*America Reads Locations*

### ***Impact on Student Tutors***

Since its inception, America Reads\*Counts has significantly impacted both the youth it serves and the university student tutors. The program enhances tutors' competencies, confidence, and empathy. Surveys show that tutors improve their communication skills, community resource identification, and ability to connect academic learning with community needs. Tutors also report increased abilities to organize student action, create plans to address community issues, and engage others in problem-solving. The relationships they build with their mentees foster a sense of community and personal growth, often inspiring tutors to pursue careers in education. For example, Selem Termine shared how mentoring a shy student at the New Bedford Housing Authority's Bay Village location, transformed both their lives, highlighting the profound personal connections and development opportunities the program fosters.



# LITERACY PROGRAMS

## Jumpstart

Jumpstart, a national early childhood education program aimed at improving language, literacy, and socioemotional skills of preschoolers in underserved communities, has concluded its fourth year at UMass Dartmouth. The ultimate goal of Jumpstart is to ensure every child enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. This is accomplished by reducing the ratio of adults to children in the classroom by connecting caring college students to children in need. In return college students receive a plethora of experience, internship credits, Federal Work Study awards, and the Segal Education Award from AmeriCorps.

Megan Lambert, the Jumpstart Site Manager at UMass Dartmouth, has witnessed firsthand the significant impact that access to early childhood education programs can have on underserved communities. Megan, originally from Storrs, CT, served as a Jumpstart Corps Member and Team Leader at Simmons College while she was studying at Emmanuel College in Boston, MA. After completing her undergraduate program, she continued her studies at Emmanuel College and received a Masters of Education in 2021. Knowing that she wanted to continue her work in both higher education and early childhood education, she became a Jumpstart Site Manager at UMass Dartmouth. For the past two years, Megan has worked directly with students on campus and educational organizations in both Fall River and New Bedford to ensure high quality programming.

### ***2023-2024 At a Glance***

**24**

*Jumpstart Members*

**70**

*Preschool Children Served*

**2,962**

*Hours of Service*

## Recent Events



74 preschool children from both Little People's College and NorthStar Learning Centers in New Bedford embarked on a field trip to UMass Dartmouth for an engaging Story Walk. For preschoolers at the NorthStar Learning Centers, this was an opportunity for them to see their Jumpstart friends outside of the classroom at the University they attend. During this event, children immersed themselves in the pages of *With Lots of Love* by author Jenny Torres Sanchez. It was a fun filled morning for all that were involved and for many of the little ones, it was their very first experience riding on a big yellow school bus!



The Leduc Center team, accompanied by Representative Christopher Hendricks, Chancellor Mark Fuller and Dr. John Quinn, had the pleasure of visiting NorthStar Learning Center on Rivet St. in New Bedford. During our visit, we met Jennie Antunes, the Director of Education, where we explored the center's history, took part in Jumpstart's daily activities, and learned about the skills members have developed since joining the program.



# COLLEGE AWARENESS

## College Positive Campus Tours



The College Positive Campus Tours expose local seventh graders to the possibility of attending college by demonstrating that it can be affordable and highlighting the benefits college has to offer. Sponsored by BayCoast Bank, Jacobs Family Donor Advised Fund, St. Anne's Credit Union, Taunton Federal Credit Union, and First Citizens' Charitable Foundation, the program was managed by 31 UMass Dartmouth students trained as tour guides. In total, 1,735 seventh grade students from Fall River and New Bedford public schools visited UMass Dartmouth. In an effort to improve tour experiences, this year we partnered with the Admission's Office and National Society for Black Engineers.

Survey results from the College Positive Campus Tours showed that before the campus tours, 605 students agreed or strongly agreed that they were planning to attend college. After the tours, this number increased to 724 students, representing a 20% increase. Even more impressive is the substantial decline in the number of students who strongly disagreed or disagreed about attending college. Initially, 178 students were certain they would not attend college. After the tours, this number dropped to 66, resulting in a significant 63% decline.





## College and Career Youth Summit

The Eighth Grade College and Career Awareness Summit serves as a follow-up to the College Positive Campus Tours, emphasizing the importance of higher education for area youth. We hosted our annual summit on May 2 and May 3, welcoming 738 eighth-grade students from Fall River and 958 from New Bedford.

The keynote speaker, Juan Cangas, who has dedicated much of his life to exploring the question, "Why do some people succeed in life while others fail?" shared his journey. As a young Latino teen, Juan faced significant challenges but found the motivation to succeed.



Survey results from the summit revealed that the message of overcoming obstacles to achieve higher education resonated strongly with the students. Before attending the Youth Summit, students said their intention to pursue college education was rated at 4.07 out of 5. However, after participating in the Youth Summit, their intention to go to college increased significantly, reaching a rating of 4.66 out of 5. When asked to describe the event in five words, students responded with ***"great, motivating, inspiring, helpful, and fun."*** They also shared key takeaways such as, ***"be kind and learn from your mistakes,"*** and ***"life is full of opportunities that cannot be missed."***

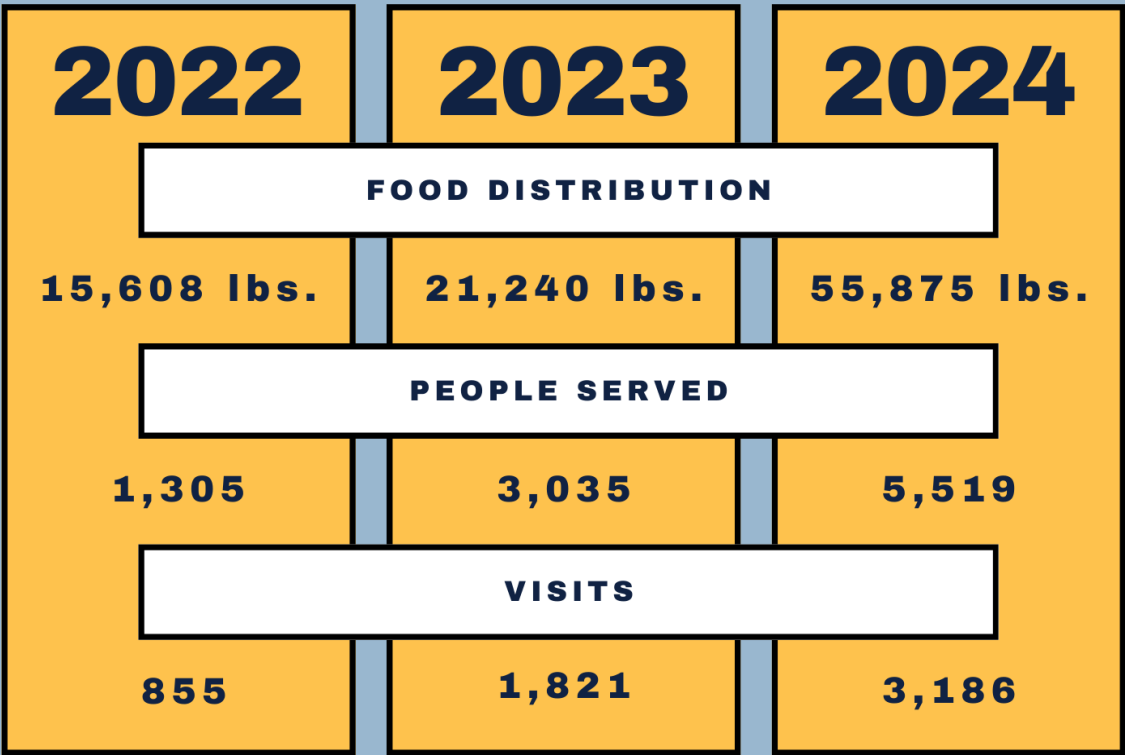
***"The keynote speaker was inspirational and related to so many of the students. It was a great experience overall! Youth need more opportunities like this."***

**– Anonymous Middle School Teacher**

# JEANNE'S CUPBOARD



## YEARLY COMPARISON OF USAGE



## ***History***

In 2014, in response to the widespread issue of student hunger on campus, Aubrie Breault '15 and Samantha Smith '15, students in Professor Roy's Leadership Colloquium, founded The Students Helping Students Food Pantry. Initially housed at The Dartmouth Bible Church, students had to travel off-campus to access the pantry, which relied on donations from the UMass Dartmouth community. Understanding the need to maximize the pantry's impact student Maurice Cyr '19 worked to relocate the pantry to a central campus location. In the fall of 2016, this effort led to the pantry being renamed Arnie's Cupboard.

In 2021, a generous gift from Robert and Jeanne Leduc prompted a name change to Jeanne's Cupboard. This gift facilitated an expansion of services, including a move to a larger location in Woodland Commons with extended hours. Deacon Frank Lucca shared the evolution of Jeanne's Cupboard with The Leduc Center, recounting how he and a student initially transported food box by box. Today, facilities help move up to 6,000 pounds of food to serve over 1,300 clients monthly.

## ***Objectives***

- Create a safe space for distributing quality, nutritious emergency food to students, faculty & staff.
- Encourage student engagement to foster a sense of community, volunteerism, and peer service.
- Collect quality, nutritious food donations to enhance sustainability and campus initiatives.
- Raise awareness and advocate for food justice, particularly for low-income college students.

The primary objective is to ensure the pantry operates as an emergency resource, providing essential assistance to individuals facing immediate food insecurity. By implementing guidelines for food distribution, the pantry aims to serve those in urgent need and distribute resources responsibly.

## ***Usage and Impact***

Jeanne's Cupboard has grown exponentially, advancing its mission to eliminate food insecurity among UMass Dartmouth students, faculty, and staff. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, 34.5% of students experience food insecurity. Reflecting this need, 2023-24 marked the pantry's highest usage year.

The Greater Boston Food Bank has been crucial in Jeanne's Cupboard's growth. In 2022-23, the pantry provided 2,500 pounds of food monthly, totaling 21,240 pounds annually, equating to 17,554 meals valued at \$65,826. This nearly tripled in 2023-24, with the pantry providing 6,000 pounds of food monthly, equating to 55,875 pounds, 46,178 meals and \$173,166 worth of food annually. Besides meals, Jeanne's Cupboard supplies essential household goods and toiletries. While most growth has come from on-campus usage, there has been increased usage from off-campus community members.

# ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

Forty UMass Dartmouth students departed for Europe, Central America, Florida, and the nation's capital for spring break, but not for a week of leisure on sandy beaches. This year, a growing number of students opted for alternative spring break trips, choosing service, engagement, and career growth over rest and recreation.

From promoting sustainability practices to international companies in Panama to health education in the Azores and providing domestic hurricane and hunger relief, read on to learn about selfless acts and impactful contributions made by UMassD students. The Leduc Center is proud to support the following alternative breaks in the 23-24 academic year:

## Food Justice in the SouthCoast

Through the Leduc Center for Civic Engagement, 3 students participated in the Food First Alternative Spring Break, learning about local and national food insecurity, working on farms, and making and distributing food to those in need. Community partners involved in this initiative included: Sharing the Harvest Community Farm, Marion Institute, Full Pate, Round the Bend Farm, and UMass Dartmouth Sustainability Office.



*"I learned quite a bit about farming, specifically tilling. I also learned a lot about farmers and what their daily lives are like."*

- Karen Ferriera '27

## Hurricane relief in Fort Myers, Florida

The Society for Community Leaders organized a service trip with Community Collaborations International (CCI), an organization that aids in environmental, disaster relief, and human service projects. Eight UMass Dartmouth students traveled to assist hurricane relief efforts in Fort Myers, Florida. There, they provided direct relief to families, individuals, and organizations still recovering from Hurricane Ian and subsequent flooding.



## Nursing students "Bridge the Atlantic" to Portugal



Now in its 8th year, Bridging the Atlantic is an international alliance in community health among American and Azorean nursing students and faculty at UMass Dartmouth and the University of the Azores in Portugal. Each year during spring break, UMassD nursing majors travel to the Azores and tour hospitals and healthcare centers to better understand the healthcare system in another country. While there, students and faculty from both institutions, along with community agencies, work together to prepare a symposium.

*"In Portugal, hospitals are not only buildings, but sanctuaries of health where every patient is treated with dignity and respect. I will take this experience with me to my clinical practice,"* added Sydney Boland '25.

This year's project, "Bridging Borders: Migration and Health," focused on the health of migrants. Efforts reached migrants through a resource fair and educational materials will be created based on data collected. Bridging the Atlantic was created and is led by Associate Professor of Nursing Dr. Maryellen Brisbois.

***"Bridging the Atlantic was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will be forever grateful for. I learned so much about other cultures and healthcare systems while making great friends along the way."***

**- Jordan Soufy '25**



# PARTNERSHIP



## Community Partner Voices

This academic year, the Leduc Center surveyed its community partners to assess the impact of its partnerships and identify areas for improvement. We received 20 responses from partners primarily located in Fall River and New Bedford, two post-industrial cities in Bristol County facing challenges such as low educational attainment and higher unemployment rates. In Bristol County, 31.1% of the population holds a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 47.5% statewide. The unemployment rate in April 2024 was 3.6% in Bristol County, compared to 2.9% statewide.

Higher education institutions can significantly influence community development by fostering partnerships, facilitating change, and creating spaces for community ideas and talents to flourish. As an anchor institution, UMass Dartmouth is dedicated to building mutually beneficial partnerships. Successful community partnerships involve comprehensive strategies, choosing relevant issues, connecting with other cities, and engaging large numbers of students.

The survey results highlighted that more than three-fourths of respondents (76%) were non-profits, 25% were involved with literacy-based education, and 5% were governmental agencies and others.

### *When asked about their partnership with the Leduc Center:*

- 45% of respondents indicated they have been partners for more than 7 years.
- 76% indicated they have upcoming projects suitable for service-learning students.
- 100% of respondents indicated they would like to continue their partnership.

# GRADUATES GIVE BACK

UMass Dartmouth's undergraduate Class of 2024 left their commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 16th with more than just their diplomas after the guest speaker, Robert Hale, surprised each student with envelopes containing \$1,000 cash inside. Hale, billionaire co-founder and president of Massachusetts-based Granite Telecommunications — and a part owner of the Boston Celtics — was onstage to accept the Chancellor's Medal for his philanthropic work. Hale implored each student to give \$500 to a charity or cause close to their heart, hoping to inspire a spirit of generosity among these newly minted alumni. ***"The greatest joys in life that we have experienced have come from giving,"*** Robert Hale Jr. said onstage Thursday, referring to himself and his wife Karen. ***"We want to share that gift of giving with you today."***

Since then, the Class of 2024 embraced Hale's philanthropic challenge by donating to the Fall River Boys and Girls Club, the V Foundation for Cancer Research, Forever Paws Animal Shelter, Faxon Animal Shelter, Sharing the Harvest Community Farm, Jeanne's Cupboard and by repaying family members for their support.

Amanda Little '24 grew an unmatched love for Sharing the Harvest Community Farm, a nonprofit, volunteer-driven community farm that alleviates hunger in the region where she volunteered frequently. ***"I was really into volunteering and donating whatever I could before this gift,"*** said Little, ***"but I feel like starting your career off by donating to a special cause is really powerful and teaches us all a lesson about the value of generosity."***

Nursing major Sara Fusaro '24, donated funds to Jeanne's Cupboard, an on-campus pantry that supplies food and necessities to any student in need. She said, ***"When I was unemployed and could not afford food, I was able to go there and get healthy food for me and my kids. I figured this was a perfect way to give back."***

Hale's challenge not only facilitated immediate support for numerous organizations and personal causes, but also instilled a profound understanding of the everlasting value of philanthropy in these students. As they move forward, they carry with them the promise to perpetuate this cycle of giving in the future.



Portions of this article are from the UMass Dartmouth Office of Public Affairs on June 27, 2024



# SOCIALLY ENGAGED ART



"What could the Sculpture program do with 30,000 collected plastic bottles?" This is the question that Deirdre Healy, Director of the Office of Community Service & Partnerships at the Leduc Center posed to Art & Design Professor Stacy Latt Savage in August 2023. The question was natural as the sculpture program has partnered with the Leduc Center many times over the years creating large-scale public artworks. The bottles in question were collected by *Be the Solution to Pollution*, a shoreline clean-up group run by Mary Lou Nicholson, that removes litter from beaches throughout southeastern Massachusetts including Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Westport, New Bedford and Fall River.

To take on this new challenge, the sculpture program paired with Assistant Director of Campus Sustainability Jamie Jacquart to bring visiting Artist-in-Residence Rebecca McGee Tuck, a Boston-based activist artist, to lead this endeavor for our campus: making trash into a sculpture that will bring visceral awareness to our global environment crisis.

An eight month "super collaboration" across the UMass Dartmouth campus evolved into the Sculpture Monster: A creature from the Plasticine Era. Collaborators include *Be the Solution to Pollution*, Campus Sustainability, Leduc Center, MassPIRG, the sustainability studies program and Professor Rachel Kulick's "SOA 339: Sustainable Cities" course, the CVPA fibers program, the CVPA music program, UMass Dartmouth Honors Program, UMassD Alternative Spring Break, and hundreds of student volunteers and participants from our community.

The design for the sculpture came out of brainstorming sessions called "trash talks," where over 300 participants proposed their ideas for what the sculpture should look like. The sculpture is meant to draw awareness to the "monstrous" amount of plastic littering the environment, one of the greatest offenders being nip bottles that are commonly found littering streets, parks and beaches. The sculpture is meant to symbolize the threat that plastic pollution poses to the environment.



Overtime, plastics degrade into smaller particles, known as microplastics, that can leach into the environment and contaminate food and drinking water.

When all 30,000 bottles were delivered to UMass, Tuck was a little overwhelmed. ***“It was out of control how many,”*** Tuck said. The bottles overflowed 15 large boxes and eight trash cans. ***“I was just like, ‘Oh my God, that’s like a monstrous amount of bottles.’ That’s how the sculpture came to be known around campus as ‘the monster.’”***

In recent years, environmental groups and state representatives have pursued legislation to update Massachusetts’ 1982 bottle bill to raise the refund from 5 cents to 10 cents for returning recyclable containers. The proposals also call for Massachusetts to expand the bottle bill to include nip bottles in its bottle redemption program. Deirdre Healy said this would incentivize more people to recycle plastics, such as nip bottles, that otherwise litter streets and beaches. ***“Expanding the bottle bill would keep nip bottles out of the ocean and off the highways and byways,”*** Healy said.

The sculpture is designed to be carried in a procession, and is over 60 feet long and takes over 30 students to carry it. The Sculpture Monster made its debut on April 11th at the Earth Day Parade during New Bedford’s AHA! Night, an event that celebrates local arts and history.



Portions of this article are from the UMass Dartmouth Office of Public Affairs on April 8, 2024 and Dartmouth Week on Mar 25, 2024

# AWARDS & HONORS

## Civic Leadership Awards

The UMass Dartmouth Civic Leadership Awards recognize the civic engagement contributions of our students, faculty, and community members. This year's recipients were:



### **Student Civic Leadership Award** **Grace St. Urbain '24, Law**

Grace St. Urbain, a recent graduate of UMass Law, exemplified dedication to public service and justice. As former president of the Student Bar Association and a Public Interest Law Fellow, Grace has an unwavering commitment to advocating for marginalized communities and expanding access to legal services. Fluent in English, French, Creole, and Spanish, her linguistic skills were invaluable in pre-screening migrants from Haiti and Latin America. Her experience as a victim advocate at the Cobb County District Attorney's office solidified her desire to pursue a legal career. At UMass Law, she thrived in doctrinal courses, clinical programs, and student organizations.



### **Faculty Civic Leadership Award** **Michael Griffin, Accounting & Finance**

Mike Griffin was a full-time lecturer and Associate Teaching Professor in the Accounting and Finance Department for 36 years. He has received five Charlton College of Business distinguished teaching awards and the Walter Cass teaching award. Mike has partnered with the Leduc Center for Civic Engagement for over 12 years, recruiting and mentoring students for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. This initiative profoundly impacted the New Bedford community, providing essential tax services and bringing millions of dollars back into the local economy. He has forged vital relationships with regional businesses, securing internships and job placements for countless students.



### **Community Member Civic Leadership Award** **Mary Lou Nicholson, Be the Solution to Pollution**

Mary Lou Nicholson began her work on plastic pollution over 10 years ago by organizing beach cleanups in the Southcoast region. Her initiatives have inspired volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to not only participate in cleanups but also engage in addressing the root causes of the problem. An active member of groups such as #Breakfree from Plastics, Plastic Free MA, and Climate Reality Southcoast, Mary Lou has frequently been invited to participate in panels and testify at the MA Statehouse. Her commitment extends beyond the local level, as she has collaborated with organizations to combat the broader national and international dimensions of plastic pollution.



## Jonathan Blake Waxler Prize for Social Justice

The Jonathan Blake Waxler Memorial Prize for Social Justice was established in 1996 to recognize students who have exhibited a dedication to social activism, advocacy, community organizing, or civic engagement as a way of enhancing the dignity of all people. This year's award winner was:



### **Cinnamon Bohm '25, Law**

Cinnamon Bohm, a UMass Law student graduating in 2025, has turned personal hardships as a young adult into a dedication to social justice. Over the past year she interned with the Public Defender Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Fall River. Cinnamon also interned with the Federal Defender for the District of Rhode Island over the summer. During this time, she has assisted clients in navigating their legal issues by making sure they can be there for their families. Her goal is to ensure that those on the receiving end of the criminal justice system can exercise their rights and reclaim their lives.

## Newman Civic Fellow

The Newman Civic Fellowship honors emerging leaders who are dedicated to social change and public service with year-long training, mentorship, and networking opportunities through Campus Compact. This year's Newman Civic Fellow was:



### **Kelsey Wink '26, Political Science + History**

Kelsey Wink, a dual major in Political Science and History with a Pre-Law concentration, is the College of Arts & Sciences Senator, leads the Library, Research & Technology Standing Committee, and is a member of Model UN. Her civic involvement includes tutoring at the Writing and Multiliteracy Center, interning with the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, and serving as a Legislative Intern for Senator Troy Singleton. Active in campus clubs like the Political Science Association and Society of Community Leaders, Kelsey organized the Mid-Atlantic Political Intern Summit and participated in a political podcast on climate change's impact on voting behavior.

# AWARDS & HONORS

## Claire T. Carney Leaders Program

The Claire T. Carney Leaders Program awards first-year UMassD students with the opportunity to serve with a local community-based organization or on-campus partner. The following students were selected as Claire T. Carney Leaders for the 2024 Academic Year:



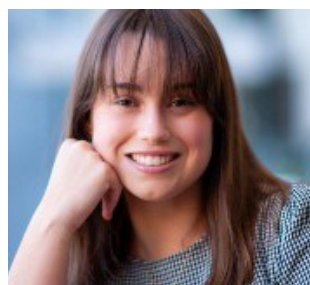
**Somkene Chizea '27, *Economics***

Somkene Chizea, an Economics major with a 4.0 GPA, is actively involved in leadership roles, currently serving as the Assistant Vice President of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Chapter at UMass Dartmouth. Additionally, she has served as an Office Assistant at the Frederick Douglass Unity House and was part of the logistics team for Unity Fest.



**Molly Gookin '27, *Biology***

Molly Gookin, a Biology major on the Pre-Med track, holds the position of Class President for the Class of 2027, Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences, and also serves on Student Government Association. Additionally, Molly is the secretary of the Pre-Health Society and a member of the Infrastructure Committee, Student Affairs Committee, and Dining Committee.



**Brianna Hume '27, *Political Science***

Brianna Hume is a Political Science major with a Pre-Law concentration and a minor in Legal Studies. She serves as the treasurer for the Class of 2027 and is an active member of the Finance Committee, Infrastructure Committee, and the Civic Engagement and Public Relations Committee. Brianna has volunteered for Big Brothers Big Sisters and has served as a mentor with Color4Change at Henry Lord Elementary School in Fall River.



**Ronak Jahangirian '27, *Political Science***

Ronak Jahangirian, a Political Science major, has gained diverse experience working as a Student Affairs Office Assistant, Event Technician, IT Technical Intern, and Teaching Assistant with Quincy Public Schools. Ronak is committed to advocating for causes, such as improved accommodations for students with disabilities and enhanced support services for students facing mental health challenges.

## Michael Dukakis Public Service Internship

The Michael Dukakis Public Service Internship Award provides students with the opportunity to intern in a public service or government setting to encourage students to consider a career in public service. The 2023 and 2024 interns were:



**Nicole Kach '24, *Political Science***

Nicole Kach graduated in 2024 with a Bachelor of Political Science and minor in Communications and Sustainability. She was a member of Student Government Association, Model United Nations, the Sailing Team, Society of Community Leaders, and the Outdoor Club. She previously interned for the Mayor of Taunton in 2022 and did another internship at National Waterways Conference in Washington D.C. in 2023.



**Jehan Worthy '24, *Law***

Jehan Worthy received her J.D. from UMass Law in 2024. She was the first ever UMass Law student to serve as the Student Trustee on the UMass Board of Trustees, held positions with the Student Bar Association (SBA), the UMass Law Alumni Association, the American Bar Association, and was a Legal Skills and Civil Procedure Teaching Assistant. Jehan did her internship during the summer of 2023 at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau.



**Robert Coady '25, *Law***

Robert F. Coady received his Bachelor of Political Science from Providence College in 2022, and is currently receiving his J.D. from UMass Law. He previously interned for former Congressman David Cicilline, the RI State General Assembly, South Coast Coastal Counties Legal Services, and the Fall River Housing Authority. Robert did his internship at the Bristol County Family and Probate Court in Taunton, MA this summer.



**Gent Haviari '25, *Political Science***

Gent Haviari is a Political Science and Philosophy double major with a Pre-Law concentration and minor in Legal Studies. He has served as a Newman Civic Fellow, Vote Captain, and will be the 2025 Student Trustee. He currently serves with MASSPIRG, Student Government Association, Model United Nations, and is President of the Class of 2025. Gent did his internship at the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office this summer.

# AWARDS & HONORS

## Community Engagement Recognition

The Leduc Center for Civic Engagement proudly acknowledges the Class of 2024 undergraduates who have devoted 200 or more hours of service to our community throughout their college journey:

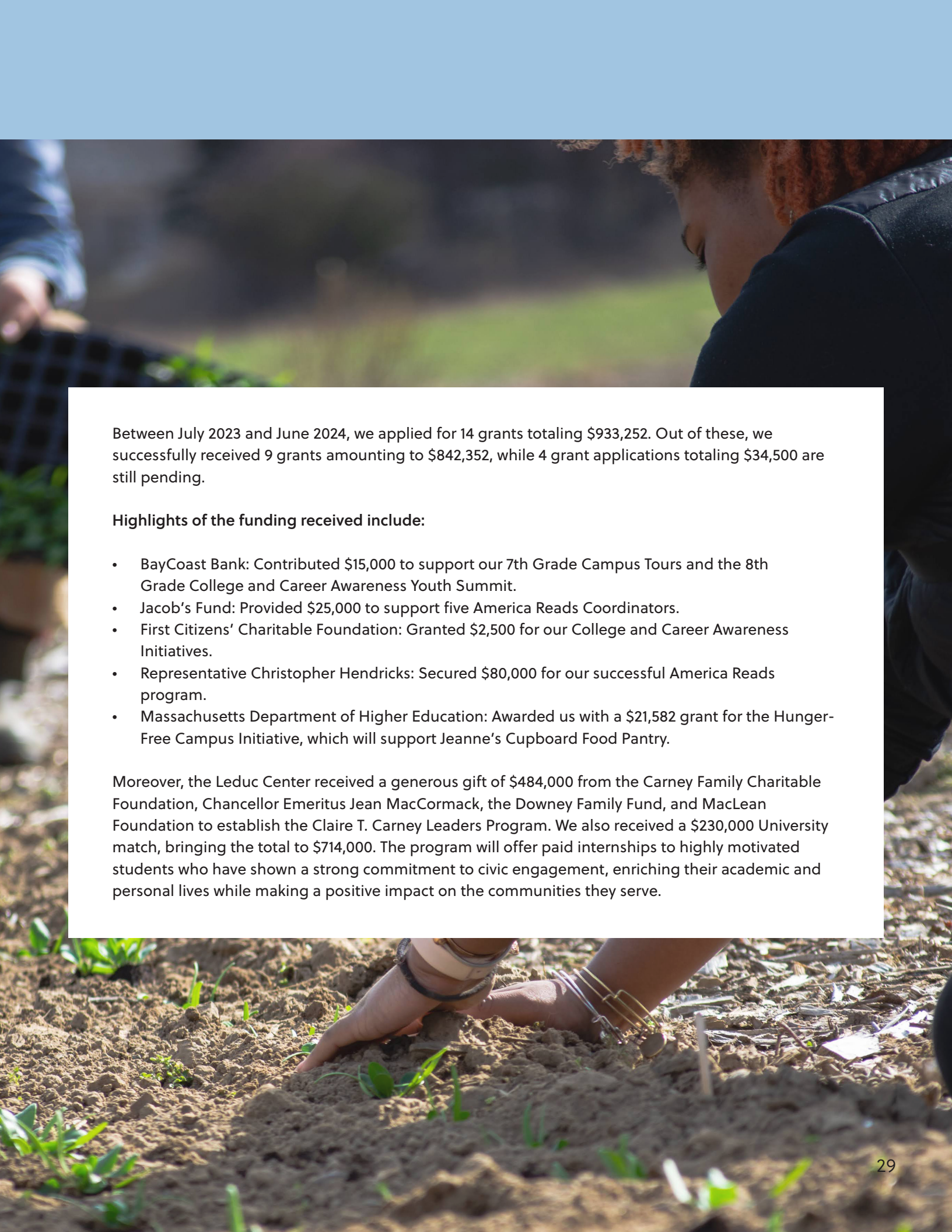
**Kamila Abdi  
Faith Andris  
Gianna Barbosa  
Krystal Boateng\*  
Shantalle Boateng  
Pushkar Bhatia  
Zoi Burns  
Mariam Camara  
Lunessa Charles  
Akilah Clarke  
Doreen Darko\*  
Ruth Delhomme\*  
Rebecca Dishmey  
Grace Francois-Annevil  
Z'Kiya Gant  
Geneva Gilot  
Yarlin Gonzalez-Nunez  
Amber Holt  
Alisha Johnson  
Moeish Joseph  
Nicole Kach\***

**Lilah Kamins  
Kyrillos Kedees  
Gamliele Labady  
Joodzell Louis  
Kelsey Malcolm  
Skanda Manjuanth Shastry  
Rachel Monte  
Colleen Murphy  
Phuong Ngo  
Haleigh Nogueira\*  
Joana Nunes  
Luisany Ortega Bautista  
Ebunoluwa Osinubi\*  
Jajuana Pearson  
Alejandra Ponce Lopez  
Ivyana Scott  
Jessica Semedo Silva  
Logan Showstead  
Jordan Tavares  
Widline Thomas  
Skyla Viveiros**

\*Over 500 hours of service





A photograph of a person with curly hair, seen from the side, looking down at a garden bed. The person is wearing a dark jacket. The garden bed is filled with soil and some small green plants. The background is blurred, showing more of the garden and some foliage.

Between July 2023 and June 2024, we applied for 14 grants totaling \$933,252. Out of these, we successfully received 9 grants amounting to \$842,352, while 4 grant applications totaling \$34,500 are still pending.

**Highlights of the funding received include:**

- BayCoast Bank: Contributed \$15,000 to support our 7th Grade Campus Tours and the 8th Grade College and Career Awareness Youth Summit.
- Jacob's Fund: Provided \$25,000 to support five America Reads Coordinators.
- First Citizens' Charitable Foundation: Granted \$2,500 for our College and Career Awareness Initiatives.
- Representative Christopher Hendricks: Secured \$80,000 for our successful America Reads program.
- Massachusetts Department of Higher Education: Awarded us with a \$21,582 grant for the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative, which will support Jeanne's Cupboard Food Pantry.

Moreover, the Leduc Center received a generous gift of \$484,000 from the Carney Family Charitable Foundation, Chancellor Emeritus Jean MacCormack, the Downey Family Fund, and MacLean Foundation to establish the Claire T. Carney Leaders Program. We also received a \$230,000 University match, bringing the total to \$714,000. The program will offer paid internships to highly motivated students who have shown a strong commitment to civic engagement, enriching their academic and personal lives while making a positive impact on the communities they serve.



# BY THE NUMBERS

## LEDUC CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

### Service-learning

#### Service-learning Courses

Faculty	184
Course sections	559
UMassD Students taking a section*	8,329
Hours of Service	166,850

### Early Literacy

#### America READS/Counts

UMassD Students	99
Sites	7
Hours of Service	5,337

#### Jumpstart

UMassD Students	24
Sites	2
Preschool Children Served	72
Hours of Service	2,962

### Youth Programming

#### College Positive Tours

UMassD Students	31
Number of schools	9
Seventh Graders	1,735
Hours of Service	680

#### Youth Summit

UMassD Students	10
Number of Schools	8
Eighth Graders	1,696
Hours of Service	33

*\*Duplicated Count*

### Community Service

#### 9/11 Day of Service

UMassD Students	102
Hours of Service	223

#### Alternative Break

##### Local

UMassD Students	3
Hours of Service	93

##### Fort Myers, Florida

UMassD Students	8
Hours of Service	512

#### Coastal Cleanups

Number of Coastal Cleanups	11
UMassD Students*	104
Litter Removed from Coast (lbs.)	4,597
Number of Plastic Bottles Removed	2,536
Number of Alcohol Bottles Removed	1,152
Hours of Service	326

#### First Year Support

Number of Classrooms	12
UMassD Students	466
Hours of Service	1,304

### Food Security

#### Jeanne's Cupboard

UMassD Student Managers/Volunteers	44
Number of Visits	3,186
Number of Household Members Served	5,519
Food Distributed (lbs.)	55,875
Hours of Service	1,810

## TOTAL SERVICE HOURS

Service-learning

Community Service/Volunteerism

Value of Service

## UMASS DARTMOUTH BY THE NUMBERS

### Leduc Center

#### Programs

9/11 Day of Service	223
Alternative Breaks	605
America Reads/Counts	5,337
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	297
Coaching4Change	2,804
Coastal Cleanups	326
College Positive Tours	680
Dukakis Fellows	681
Festival of Lights	319
First Year Suport	1,304
Jeanne's Cupboard	1,810
Jumpstart	2,962
Leduc Service Leaders/Contractors	1,527
Semester in the City	1,200
Service-learning	166,850
Tuesdays at the Farm	85
UMassD Votes	150
VITA	510
Youth Summit	33

### University Programs & Centers

#### Programs

MASSPIRG	2,049
Sustainability	5,686

#### Centers

Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality	1,917
Center for Religious and Spiritual Life	248
Frederick Douglass Unity House	3,264

### SAIL - Student Activities

#### 135 Student Organizations

Hours of Service	15,682
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### Athletics

#### Teams

Baseball	60
Field Hockey	66
Football	3,360
Ice Hockey	194
Lacross	60
Men's Basketball	490
Men's Corss Country	68
Men's Soccer	600
SAAC	360
Tennis	236
Track & Field	50
Volleyball	614
Women's Basketball	96
Women's Cross Country	36
Women's Soccer	141

### Economic Development

#### VITA

UMassD Students/Professors/Alumni	6
Hours of Service	510
Free Tax Returns Filed	740
Refund Amount w/ EITC (\$)	1,600,000

### Housing & Residential Experience

#### Housing

Hours of Service	1,332
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### Legal Aid

#### Student Hours

Field Placement and Clinics	15,914
Pro Bono	7,044
Public Interest Law Fellows	4,660

**252,464**  
 166,850  
 85,614  
**\$10.34 million**

# GRATITUDE & APPRECIATION

We would like to thank our faculty, students, and community partners for dedicating their time and effort in helping build the bridge between learning and community. We would also like to thank and recognize the organizations who have supported the mission of the Leduc Center by funding our programs and projects. This year, the Leduc Center would like to thank:



MASSACHUSETTS  
Department of  
Higher Education





MASSACHUSETTS  
SERVICE ALLIANCE



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
of Southeastern Massachusetts

*Jacobs Family Donor Advised Fund*

**Dr. Jean  
MacCormack**



ONE SOUTH COAST  
CHAMBER



Southcoast® Health



Campus Compact

*Downey Family Fund*



FIRST  
CITIZENS'  
Charitable Foundation

**tfcu** TAUNTON FEDERAL  
CREDIT UNION

**MacLean  
Foundation**



**Leduc Center  
for Civic Engagement**

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