

Creating Pathways to Higher Education

Talking points for gift officers

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This document details Northeastern's efforts to **expand and enrich academic opportunities for youth in the city of Boston**, and outlines opportunities for donors to back these critical programs.

Prelude: The Northeastern community embraces young learners from all walks of life and around the globe. But to empower those closest to our Boston campus, we are:

- Strengthening viable, permanent pathway programs that support the city's middle and high schoolers in applying to, matriculating at, and succeeding in college.
- Removing barriers to education, heightening college readiness, empowering talented learners to achieve their goals, and positioning them to move up the economic ladder.

The following opportunities will help champion motivated, deserving students today—and enable them to find purpose and passion throughout their careers and lives. Please note a minimum gift of \$25,000 is required to establish a current use fund, while a minimum gift of \$100,000 will create an endowed fund.

Summer Math and Science Honors (SMASH) Academy (smash.org)

- This national three-year, tuition-free college preparatory program advances high school students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, with a focus on computer science.
- Starting the summer before tenth grade, SMASH students live at Northeastern for five weeks, and for the next three summers are immersed in more than 100 hours of STEM coursework.
- SMASH aims to continue growing a STEM talent pipeline diverse in race, gender, socioeconomic background and thought, and broaden economic and professional opportunities for young learners.

Funding opportunities for SMASH:

- \$5,000 covers tuition, room, and board for one student to attend SMASH for one summer.
- \$25,000 creates a named, spendable fund to cover tuition, room, and board for five students to attend SMASH for one summer.
- \$125,000 endows a named fund that will provide \$5,000 to cover tuition, room, and board for one student to attend SMASH each year, for three years, in perpetuity.
- All gifts will be accepted, as many students hail from low-income families who would benefit greatly from a stipend of even \$1,500 to cover living expenses while attending SMASH.
- Gifts may be directed to SMASH: fund designation code #390114.
- For more information, contact Lindsey Sadonis, senior director of major gifts at the Khoury College of Computer Sciences, at l.sadonis@northeastern.edu.

Accelerate Scholarships (precollegeprograms.northeastern.edu)

- In this pre-college program, juniors and seniors experience Northeastern by participating in bootcamp-style workshops, masterclasses, and credit bearing courses during the academic year.
- In pursuing collegiate learning in a world-class environment, from engineering to health professions, students develop skillsets, explore interests, and engage with peers and faculty in small, dynamic cohorts—and gain an edge in the college admissions process.
- Accelerate reserves seats in its programs for Boston high school students at a reduced or no cost.

Funding opportunities for Accelerate Scholarships:

- \$5,000 provides one full scholarship for one student.
- \$15,000 awards a full scholarship to one student who both a) completed Accelerate and b) is applying early decision to Northeastern. It will enable them to take two credit-bearing courses during their senior year of high school.
- \$25,000 supports a rising high school junior through two summers and two credit-bearing courses in senior year.
- There are currently no established funds at Northeastern to support Accelerate Scholarships. Donors interested in making an unrestricted gift may consider supporting the Balfour Academy Fund: fund designation code #386506.
- For more information, contact Liz Quinn, director of Pre-College Programs, at e.quinn@northeastern.edu.

Balfour Academy (balfouracademy.northeastern.edu)

- This free-of-charge program runs for six summers from seventh grade through high school, and is designed to increase enthusiasm for learning, develop basic skills, and grow leadership abilities.
- Balfour provides academic classes, enrichment activities, online learning, and after-school tutoring during the school year to prepare students for college. In this positive environment, learners not only discover their passions but also bond with peers and faculty and grow as individuals.
- Nearly all Balfour students graduate from high school, 85 percent go on to attend a four-year college—more than half attend Northeastern—and 96 percent graduate from college.

Funding opportunities for Balfour Academy:

- \$30,000 supports content teachers for grades 7–12 for one six-week summer program.
- \$20,000 backs weekly field trips for 120 students for one six-week summer program.
- \$20,000 supports year-round college prep such as tutoring, SAT/test prep, career exposure and workshops, and college visits).
- \$20,000 enables roughly eight students to participate in the Balfour program for one summer.
- Gifts may be made to Balfour Academy: fund designation code #386506.
- For more information, contact Molly Smith, associate dean of the University Pathways Portfolio at the College of Professional Studies, at mol.smith@northeastern.edu or 617.373.3183.

Foundation Year (northeastern.edu/admissions/academics/specialized-entry/foundation-year)

- Foundation Year gives recent high school graduates and GED completers the opportunity to transition to college and immerse themselves in an environment where they can thrive.
- Students enroll in the College of Professional Studies and work to earn a full year of college credit, and completers can then matriculate into a degree program at Northeastern.
- The program features small teacher-to-student ratios; rigorous academics; career exploration; and support services including advising, tutoring, mentoring, social networking, and work-ready skills.

Funding opportunities for Foundation Year:

- \$25,000 educates one student for one year (a cohort includes up to 75 students).
- \$2,000 provides a meal plan for one student (a cohort includes up to 75 students).
- Gifts may be made to the Foundation Year Fund: fund designation code #687423.
- For more information, contact Molly Smith, associate dean of the University Pathways Portfolio at the College of Professional Studies, at mol.smith@northeastern.edu or 617.373.3183.

Massachusetts Promise Fellowships (masspromisefellows.org)

- This program trains a racially and socioeconomically diverse cohort of 40 Promise Fellows in partnership with Northeastern's Office of City and Community Engagement.
- Fellows, typically recent college graduates, commit to one year of delivering mentoring, college and career readiness advice, and academic enrichment to at-risk youth, often in their own communities.
- They work at nonprofit organizations, schools, and government agencies to lead out-of-school programs for more than 3,000 Massachusetts underserved youth annually in grades 6–12.
- The program encourages fellows to grow as leaders, and to provide hope, support, and opportunity to other young people, and elevate them as a model of service within their communities.

Funding opportunities for the Massachusetts Promise Fellowships:

- \$20,000 per year provides one student with tuition support (a cohort of up to five students).
- \$20,000 per year provides one student with a \$500 stipend for one year; \$100,000 per year provides one student with a \$2,500 stipend for one year (a cohort of 40 students).
- \$25,000 or more current use—or \$100,000 endowed—provides assistance such as medical needs, food stability, overdue vital utilities, emergency expenses, and bereavement travel.
- Gifts may be made to the Massachusetts Promise Fund: fund designation code #386461.
- For more information, contact Christine Roque, director of the Massachusetts Promise Fellowships, at c.roque@northeastern.edu.