



Leadership Team

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Through effective school counseling programming and strategic partnerships, Reach Higher Massachusetts will inspire every student to take charge of their future by completing their education past high school.

November 2016

A Child's First Job: STUDENT

The K-12 school community may be equated to a child's first job experience. On the job, expectations are high for attendance, collaboration, problem-solving and innovation, as are the demands of a student in a standards driven school. As school counselors we must model desired work readiness behaviors while delivering high-quality curriculum designed to improve our students' academic readiness, personal social development and preparedness for civic engagement.

- How do counselors ensure the relevance of their practice?
- How do counselors contextualize the resilient behaviors they want to instill in their students?
- How do counselors know what career ready behaviors look like in elementary school?

Of course, it's by continually upping their own game through networking and professional development!

Philosopher David Weinberger is quoted as saying, "The smartest person in the room, is the room."

Reach Higher Massachusetts' **Careers and Citizenship Working Group** is comprised of professionals working together to assist K-12 counselors to identify industry, collegiate and community resources to support school counselors as they endeavor to empower their students to develop career competencies and the mindset of a life-long learner at all grade levels. Specifically, the Careers and Citizenship Work Group will identify interested community partners, provide professional development and networking opportunities as well as assist school counselors in understanding the data required to scale promising activities.

Counselors are greatly encouraged to submit ideas, identify resources and/or join the Careers and Citizenship Working Group by contacting helenod@att.net.

Together we are smarter!

[Sign up for RHM email updates](#)

**Notes from the 5th Annual Reach Higher
Convening
Washington, DC**

Working Groups

- Careers & Citizenship
 - Financing Post-secondary Education
 - Post-secondary Access, Completion & Persistence
 - Marketing & Communications

Contact RHM

ReachHigherMA@gmail.com



A beautiful weather weekend in Washington DC was the setting and location for the 5th Annual Reach Higher White House Convening held at American University, October 28 - 30th.

[Reach Higher Massachusetts](#) Leadership: Bob Bardwell (Board Director, NACAC) and his team: Ruth Carrigan, Yolanda Johnson and Jackney Prioly-Joseph along with Christine Maher joined other state teams consisting of school counselors, college counselors, teachers, state agency leaders, policy makers and business leaders.

The theme this convening: Connecting the Dots: Cultural Competence, Counseling, and College and Career Readiness of Underserved Youth. [Read more...](#)



Up Next

The First Lady's FREE College Support Tool

First Lady Michelle Obama recently launched Up Next, [Better Make Room](#)'s text-messaging tool that gives students, parents, and school counselors across the country free personalized support on all things college: college search and application, federal student aid, even student loan repayment.

[Research](#) has shown that texting can significantly increase students' college enrollment and persistence - IF students sign up. This is where you come in.

We'd love for you and your students to sign up!

All you have to do is text the word "COLLEGE" to 44044. Better Make Room takes it from there. The campaign will ask participants a series of short questions that help tailor ongoing content for them, then walks them through the college process from start to finish; from learning about college entrance exams all the way to making informed decisions about their student loans.

Thanks for getting YOUR students engaged with the First Lady's campaign! [Find out more about Up Next here.](#)



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