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Working Groups

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

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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.

October 2017

Reach Higher Holds First Solo Convening

Reach Higher Massachusetts (RHM) held its first solo convening on August 9, 2017. Presented by the RHM Coalition, **Reaching Higher in Massachusetts: Exploring Post-Secondary Transition, Persistence and Retention**, was sponsored and hosted by Framingham State University.

The mission of Reach Higher is to enable more students who graduate from high school to enter and complete further education beyond high school. With close to 200 attendees, the RHM Convening brought together professionals from higher education, school counseling, K-12 education and community-based organizations to focus on higher education completion.



The keynote speaker was James Peyser, Massachusetts State Secretary of Education. Secretary Peyser's remarks highlighted the Executive Office of Education's, as well as Governor Baker's, commitment to college and career readiness and support of collaborations happening throughout the Commonwealth. Opening remarks were given by RHM Team Leader Bob Bardwell, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Development at Framingham State University Dr. Lorretta Holloway, President of Northern Essex Community College Dr. Lane Glenn, Senior Advisor for the Reach Higher Initiative at Civic Nation Julie Heinz, and Executive Director of the Social-Emotional Learning Alliance for Massachusetts James Vetter. Additionally, lunch remarks were provided by Massachusetts Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Carlos Santiago, who addressed the FAFSA Completion Project, as well as many other programs supported by the Commonwealth. All of the guest speakers spoke of the critical skills and resources students need in order to be "future ready".

Some of the sessions presented at the Convening included *Early College High School Partnerships*, *Making Way: Eliminating Barriers from Middle School to College*, *Social and Emotional Learning: Paving the Path to College and Career*, and *Beyond Access: Supporting First Generation, Low Income Students to College Completion*. There were many key takeaways from the various presentations attendees could integrate into their own school communities.

For additional information regarding the RHM Convening, please contact Christine Luzi at c_luzi@stoughtonschools.org. For information on how to become involved in the RHM Coalition, contact Bob Bardwell at bardwellr@monsonschoools.com.

View and download the agenda [here](#).

[Sign up for RHM email updates](#)

Upcoming Events

Dialogues on Post-Secondary Preparation and Success

Join Future Ready and the MetroWest College Planning Center for its webinar series, Dialogues on Post-Secondary Preparation and Success. The first in the series 10 Things to Know: Early Interventions for College Success takes place on Wednesday October 18 from 12pm-1pm. Sign up for the webinar series [here](#).



Early Warnings of College Success



ESE's EWIS Team will offer a webinar, Early Warnings of College Success, on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 from 1-2 P.M. The webinar is designed for high school leaders, guidance counselors and others interested in understanding whether their high school students are on track for success in college. We will discuss three college success milestones - College Enrollment, Academic

Readiness and College Persistence - and demonstrate several new reports in Edwin Analytics. Educators may use these reports and the [Early Warning Indicator System \(EWIS\)](#) to understand students' college readiness risks, diagnose underlying causes of risk and develop interventions to suit students' unique strengths and needs.

Register for the webinar at this link: [Early Warnings of College Success webinar](#)

Massachusetts STEM Summit (Worcester)

As stated on the Massachusetts STEM Summit [website](#), "The annual Massachusetts STEM Summit promotes Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education and workforce development from early childhood through adulthood.

The theme for this year's Summit - **Progress Through Partnership** - celebrates the rich tradition of creative collaboration that has been the hallmark of the Commonwealth's powerful STEM movement since its earliest inception."

The Summit takes place Tuesday, November 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the DCU Center in Worcester.



Bob Bardwell's article for Civic Nation Voice was published on Forbes.com in September.

Civic NationVoice: Mrs. Obama Inspires School Counselors In Massachusetts To Make A Difference, One Student At A Time

Read the article [here](#)

Save the Dates!

Reach Higher Massachusetts Guiding Coalition Meetings

November 30, 2017
(Dean College, Franklin)

March 29, 2018
(location TBA)

June 28, 2018
(MSSAA, Franklin)

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