AGENDA

I. Welcome (10 minutes)
   Steven H. Wright
   General Counsel, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

   Neil Sullivan
   Executive Director, Boston PIC

   ☀ PIC Achievers (15 minutes)

II. Remarks (10 minutes)
    Jeffrey M. Leiden
    Chairman and CEO, Vertex Pharmaceuticals
    Massachusetts STEM Advisory Council, Co-Chair
    Boston PIC Board of Directors

III. Mayor’s Remarks (10 minutes)
     Martin J. Walsh
     Mayor, City of Boston

     ☀ PIC Achievers (15 minutes)

IV. Superintendent and Student Q&A (20 minutes)
    Brenda Cassellius
    Superintendent, Boston Public Schools

     ☀ PIC Achievers (15 minutes)

@BostonPIC
#PICAnnual

Music performed by the John D. O’Bryant High School All-Star Band
2019 PIC ACHIEVERS

Ashley Cilenti and Jenny Sherman
Rebecca Arbit
D’Ahmen Holloman
Donna Cupelo
Representative Kevin Honan
Kerlyn Cherizier
Kathleen Alvarez
Melodie Knowlton
Annie Duong-Turner
Joan Morel Peralta and Andreina Ferreira
Michael Costello
Jasmine Lemus
Alejandro Gomez Catano

@BostonPIC #PICAnnual
In 2017, the PIC, acting as Boston’s MassHire Workforce Board, selected St. Francis House as an Access Point to expand Career Center services to homeless service providers and their guests. St. Francis House chose to partner with the MassHire Downtown Boston Career Center at JVS, a few blocks away in the financial district, but a world away to the homeless individuals the agency served.

Ashley Cilenti is the Access to Employment Supervisor at St. Francis House. She prepares customers with job readiness and life skills, while providing access to transitional housing and other supportive services. When Ashley’s customers are ready to take the next step in their job search, she connects them with Jenny Sherman, a Career Navigator at the MassHire Downtown Boston Career Center at JVS. Jenny then leverages the career center’s employer connections to provide St. Francis customers with job leads, to guide them to job fairs and hiring events, and to refer them directly to hiring teams.

Jenny relies on Ashley to refer customers, and Ashley relies on Jenny to connect them to employment. Working together, they are increasing access to employment and career development – and changing lives.

Rebecca Arbit knows how to position her students for success. She is the kind of guidance counselor who knows how to leverage all the resources available. The PIC depends on relationships with champions such as Rebecca to be as effective as possible in matching students with internships and career awareness activities.

Rebecca is passionate about helping students identify and achieve their goals. She works with hundreds of students individually to help them explore their options and develop their individual plans. She knows when to refer a student to the O’Bryant’s PIC Career Specialist and each student arrives with a clear sense of purpose. In the spring, she uses various outreach techniques to make sure students are aware of the summer internship opportunities available to them.
D’Ahmen Holloman
Senior, Madison Park Technical Vocational High School
Human Resources Intern, Museum of Science
Barista, Starbucks

As a senior in the Hospitality program at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, D’Ahmen Holloman has become a leader within the school, recruiting other students to participate in SkillsUSA, a national career and technical education program. Impressed by D’Ahmen’s dependability and work ethic, Brian Harris, a Madison Park hospitality instructor, calls on him to speak at events both inside and outside the walls of the school.

A couple years ago, the PIC’s employer engagement team introduced leaders from Starbucks to Mr. Harris and the Madison Park program. With PIC support, D’Ahmen secured a position as a Barista at the Longwood Avenue store, which has allowed him to develop his customer service skills and his professionalism.

Last spring, his PIC Career Specialist encouraged D’Ahmen to apply for a competitive summer internship. He interviewed for two different positions, but was not selected. Nevertheless, he stayed positive, and his perseverance was rewarded when he was selected for a position in the business office at the Museum of Science through the Bloomberg Arts Initiative, a partnership with EdVestors.

Donna Cupelo
New England Region President,
Vice President, Public Policy, Central/New England Regions,
Verizon

The Boston Private Industry Council is a business-led organization, and few business leaders have served as long or as well as Donna Cupelo. She has been a member of the PIC Board since 2002, and she served as the PIC’s Treasurer and Finance Chair for 10 years before stepping down in June. Despite substantial shifts in revenue throughout her tenure, Donna has made sure that the PIC remains fiscally sound. Good intentions do not lead to good outcomes without strong financial management.

In early 2016, Governor Baker appointed Donna as Chair of the Commonwealth’s first statewide workforce development board under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act of 2014. That state board is now known as the MassHire State Workforce Board. Donna has excelled in civic leadership roles throughout her career with Verizon, most recently as New England Region President and Vice President of Public Policy for the Central and New England regions.

We are grateful for Donna’s leadership throughout all these years, and we are proud to honor her with a PIC Lifetime Achievement Award.
Kevin Honan
State Representative,
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Massachusetts State Representative Kevin Honan is the best legislative friend a high school could possibly have. For three decades, Kevin has made sure that Brighton High School and its students feel at home in the community. He regularly attends partnership events at the high school and has served on the Brighton High Advisory Board for over a decade. When it came to siting the Daly Field Athletic Complex along the Charles River, Representative Honan stood tall. As a result, Brighton High School sports teams play in a first class environment after years of never having a home field.

Kevin Honan was elected to represent the Allston/Brighton neighborhood in the in the House of Representatives in 1987. He is the acknowledged leader in the House when it comes to affordable housing. At budget time, he is always there for the school-to-career connecting activities line item, a main source of revenue for the PIC’s work with high school students. As the state legislature moves to address inequities with its first major education legislation since 1993, Representative Honan is there as the strongest of advocates for education and for the Boston Public Schools.

Kerlyn Chreizier
Graduate, Boston Adult Technical Academy
Concession Cook, Aramark, Fenway Park
Student, Roxbury Community College

When Kerlyn Cherizier immigrated to Boston from Haiti in 2014, his education was knocked off track. Despite completing ninth grade in Port au Prince, Kerlyn had to repeat ninth grade twice when he moved to Boston, due to his limited English skills. By the time he was 21, Kerlyn had attended three high schools and still did not have enough credits to graduate. Frustrated with his slow progress, Kerlyn’s attendance started to drop. That’s when his guidance counselor at the Boston Adult Technical Academy (BATA) connected him to the Re-Engagement Center, a partnership between the PIC and the Boston Public Schools.

Kerlyn worked with his PIC Re-Engagement Specialist to create a plan to graduate. Instead of skipping classes, he began coming to the REC with a positive attitude, taking full advantage of the REC’s blended learning environment and on-site teacher. Kerlyn finished his classes online at the REC and, this August, received a BATA high school diploma. He is currently taking classes at Roxbury Community College, and he is finishing his second season as a concession cook for Aramark at Fenway Park, a job he got through the PIC in the spring of 2018.
Kathleen Alvarez  
*Senior, Muriel S. Snowden International School  
Intern, Judicial Youth Corps*

Last year, as a junior at Muriel S. Snowden International School, Kathleen Alvarez was referred to her PIC Career Specialist by a teacher who believed she would be a great candidate for an internship in the field of law. Kathleen worked with her Career Specialist to create a resume and polish her application for the Judicial Youth Corps, ultimately winning a spot in the highly competitive program. During her internship, Kathleen had the opportunity to experience many facets of the legal profession and participate in an end-of-summer mock-trial as a cross-examiner.

Kathleen’s experience with the PIC has sharpened her interest in law and social justice. Kathleen has been captain of Snowden’s Model Congress, winner of the school’s August Wilson Monologue Competition, and an actress in the school play. As a youth activist, she has also consistently spoken out for student rights, and she was featured in a Boston Globe article for her work addressing climate change at a rally in Boston. The PIC looks forward to helping Kathleen continue to prepare for a career in advocacy and the law.

Melodie Knowlton  
*Director, Learning Lab,  
Vertex Pharmaceuticals*

Having earned her doctorate in Cell and Development Biology from Harvard Medical School, Melodie Knowlton has dedicated herself to inspiring and training the next generation of scientists. As Director of the Learning Lab at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Melodie has personally touched the lives of hundreds of students in the Boston Public Schools. She finds innovative ways of developing young people academically and dealing with the challenges they face personally and professionally.

This past summer, Dr. Knowlton and the Vertex team ran a successful 40-student summer internship program that allowed students to gain real-world experience in STEM fields, both in the workplace and in the Learning Lab. Throughout the school year, she hosts BPS high school science classes, giving students the opportunity to explore topics in biology, biotechnology, and chemistry in a high-tech laboratory. Melodie conducts science activities with the students that reinforce the concepts being taught in the classroom.
Annie Duong-Turner
Program Manager, Corporate Responsibility, John Hancock

As a former PIC intern and MLK Scholar herself, Annie Duong-Turner is uniquely qualified to manage the 600-student MLK Scholars program and John Hancock’s in-house internship program. After graduating from Boston Latin Academy and enrolling in Suffolk University, Annie continued to intern at John Hancock. She took a full-time position with the company when she graduated from college.

Under Annie’s leadership, the number of internships has increased and so has the quality of the student experience. Partnering with the Human Resources and Diversity & Inclusion departments, Annie and her Corporate Responsibility colleagues have designed group projects exposing students to various areas within the company. In addition, they have launched a mentoring component, connecting students to John Hancock employees of similar backgrounds. Annie exemplifies what the PIC calls an “employer champion” - serving as a role model for student interns, as well as for program coordinators at other companies as a member of the PIC’s Employer Network.

Joan Morel Peralta
Graduate, The English High School
Student, Bunker Hill Community College

Andreina Ferreira
Business Technology Pathways Teacher, The English High School

Joan Morel Peralta graduated from The English High School in May. During his years at English, he took part in many PIC career exploration activities, including the Teen Leadership Institute and Escalera. During his junior year, Joan won a competitive summer internship with Bank of America, where he impressed his supervisor at the Field’s Corner branch with his professionalism and his ability to translate for Spanish speaking customers. Joan returned to work for Bank of America at the Dudley branch this past summer. He is currently taking classes at Bunker Hill Community College and hopes to work at Bank of America one day full time. Joan’s long-term ambition is to start a business to serve his immigrant community.

Andreina Ferreira, an English High Business Technology Pathway teacher, played a pivotal role in Joan’s life by encouraging him to think about his bilingual skills as an asset and pursue a career in business. A former PIC intern and Tech Boston Academy graduate, she has established strategic partnerships with Deloitte, EY, and local businesses in order to inform her teaching and to bring business expertise into the classroom.
Michael Costello
Special Programs Coordinator, Student Central,
Bunker Hill Community College

Michael Costello is a Special Programs Coordinator for Student Central at Bunker Hill Community College. Bunker Hill Student Central offers services related to financial aid, student payment, registration, and academic records.

Michael has become an invaluable resource to the PIC Success Boston coaches by offering his assistance with the issues that challenge our students. Plus, by attending monthly Success Boston meetings, Michael has gained a better understanding of specific student needs. He uses that knowledge to support their persistence by making sure that financial issues don’t hold students back.

Michael goes above and beyond for our students. He truly believes that every student should have access to the resources they need. He exemplifies the strong partnership forged between Bunker Hill Community College and the Boston PIC.

Jasmine Lemus
Graduate, East Boston High School
Graduate, Bunker Hill Community College
Student, UMass Boston

Jasmine Lemus, a 2015 graduate of East Boston High School, began working with her Success Boston Coach during the summer when she realized that, for financial reasons, she would not be able to attend a four-year institution in the fall. Jasmine had been a student athlete while at East Boston, playing varsity basketball while also working 30 hours per week at Stop & Shop to help her mother meet household expenses.

When she realized that she couldn’t afford to go straight to a four-year college, Jasmine was discouraged about her future. However, after meeting with her PIC Success Boston Coach and visiting Bunker Hill Community College, she began to see a path to success. She was thrilled when she connected with the basketball coach. She tried out for and made the girls varsity basketball team. She enrolled full time at Bunker Hill in the fall of 2015. During each of the following semesters, she was able to take classes, work part-time, and maintain her position on the team.

Jasmine graduated with her Associates degree in the spring of 2018 and enrolled in UMass Boston through the Mass Transfer program, ensuring that all her Bunker Hill credits will count toward her Bachelor’s degree in Sports Medicine.
Alejandro Gomez Catano
Graduate, East Boston High School
Student, Bunker Hill Community College

Alejandro Gomez Catano was born in Boston, but left at an early age when his family moved back to Colombia. When he turned 16, he returned to East Boston to live with relatives and finish his education at East Boston High School. Alejandro joined the high school sailing team and landed at job at Piers Park Sailing Camp. He participated in the school’s state-funded GEAR UP college access program, which referred him to the PIC for postsecondary coaching. At Bunker Hill Community College, Alejandro’s Success Boston Coach helped him navigate financial aid and scholarship applications and qualify for the Mayor’s Tuition Free Community College program.

Now living on his own, Alejandro has set his sights on transferring to a four-year university. He credits his PIC Coach with advising him on how to reach that goal. He finished his first year at Bunker Hill with a 3.6 GPA. He took classes this past summer to be on track to complete his Associate's degree in 2.5 years and be eligible for the Commonwealth Commitment, a program that eases transfer from community college into a state university, while discounting tuition and fees.