

# Every Student

without exception



*Bridgewater State University*

2022 - 2023 PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT







Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present the 2022-2023 *Philanthropic Impact Report*. The stories that we feature of donors and the students whose lives they uplift, speak to who we are as a university. They speak of the support and caring love our donors show for students who they have not met but who they recognize in themselves.

Of course, BSU provides an outstanding education and unmatched value. Yes, we have one of the top undergraduate research programs in the nation, with more students presenting original research at national conferences than most Ivy League universities. Yes, we are utilizing the latest technology, such as avatars, to help education students navigate classroom dynamics before they ever lead one. Yes, we are about to launch the most sophisticated cybersecurity program and cyber range of any university in Massachusetts. Yes, we are the national leader in developing innovative strategies that advance the success of students of color and by extension all students. Yes, at a time when free speech is under attack, we are promoting it as the foundation of any democracy.

We are rightfully proud of these examples of leadership.

But the heart of a BSU education is well . . . the heart. These pages reflect the community of Bridgewater State University. A community that looks out for each other and holds the door open. A community that cares deeply about the success and well-being of everyone in the BSU family. When students express how they have found a home here, it is because we have made every effort to embrace them. When employees work here for 10, 20 and 30 years, it is because they believe in our mission and feel we are guided by our core values in all we do.

The university recently underwent an intensive 10-year accreditation process. In extending BSU's accreditation through 2032, the New England Commission of Higher Education cited a "positive culture that contributes to the institution's success as evidenced by a strong inculcated sense of purpose and mission."

Here a few examples of that positive culture at work, work that supports every student . . . *without exception*:

- **Mental Health:** These are stressful times, and the incidence of depression and anxiety has skyrocketed across the country. BSU has invested in increasing our capacity for both in-person and online counseling and is providing training to the entire campus – students, faculty and staff – to recognize signs that someone is struggling and to discuss sensitive topics.
- **Student Navigators:** BSU now has five Student Navigators who utilize data to identify students who may be at risk of dropping out and provide wrap-around services tailored to the needs of each of those students.
- **Financial Support:** We provide finish-line scholarships to students who are close to completing their degrees but where financial circumstances are impeding their ability to finish.
- **LGBTQ:** At a time when the LGBTQ community is under attack in many states, the BSU Pride Center provides support and helps build a sense of belonging for our LGBTQ students, who now represent 12% of all those enrolled.

Our students, like the many alumni who preceded them, are tenacious, resilient, and driven to overcome the odds. They work hard. And because of you, our alumni and donors, everything is possible.



**Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., '83**  
President  
Bridgewater State University

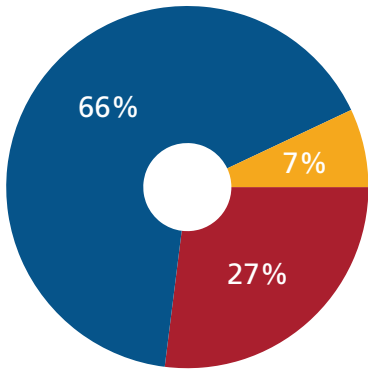


**Ellen Cuttle Oliver, '82, G'89**  
Executive Director, BSU Foundation and  
Chief Development Officer



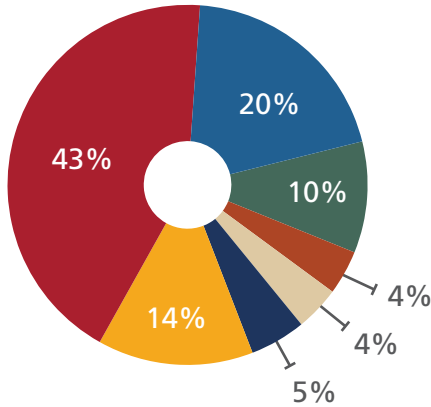
**David Rumrill, '91**  
Chairperson  
Bridgewater State University Foundation

## GIFTS



Alumni .....	\$1,693,000
Corporate and Foundation .....	\$4,167,000
Friends, Parents, Faculty and Staff.....	\$438,000
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Total.....	\$6,298,000

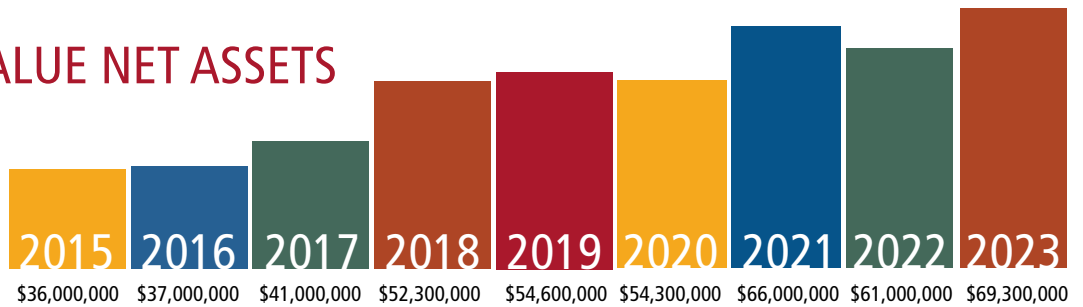
100% of private donations go directly to helping students and programs.  
All BSU operating costs associated with the BSU Foundation are provided by Bridgewater State University.



## DISBURSEMENTS

Academic/Student Programs.....	\$400,200
Athletics .....	\$133,253
Equipment .....	\$163,986
Faculty Support.....	\$202,750
Internships.....	\$545,284
Scholarships/Financial Aid.....	\$1,673,613
Student Retention Initiatives .....	\$796,800

## MARKET VALUE NET ASSETS



## REVENUE

In fiscal year 2023, Bridgewater State University received approximately **35 percent of its revenue from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**. The remainder of its revenue is from local tuition and fees, government and private grants, contracts, gifts and auxiliary enterprises.







# FOR EVERY STUDENT

BSU Giving Day - April 12 & 13, 2023

# \$190,779

Amount raised  
20% increase from last year

# 517 590

Number of donors  
26% increase from last year

Number of gifts  
25% increase from last year

# \$311

Average gift size  
Seven years ago the average gift was \$83

"Thank you for supporting students and future teachers like me. I will continue to work hard and make our world a better place."

**JOANNE, '24**  
History/Education



# FOR EVERY STUDENT

## BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY'S BOARDS AND OFFICERS

### BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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- Mr. Zachary Allen, '24**  
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Vice President for Outreach and Engagement
- Mr. Viriato (Vinny) M. deMacedo**  
Special Advisor to the President for University Priorities
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Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing and Communications
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Vice President for Student Life
- Ms. Keri Powers**  
Vice President for Human Resources and Talent Management
- Mr. Doug Shropshire**  
Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer
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Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer

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Second Vice Chairperson
- Ms. Sharon Mutrie**  
Secretary
- Ms. Ann Ulett, '92**  
Treasurer
- Ms. Ellen Cuttle Oliver, '82, G'89**  
Executive Director
- Ms. Carrie Kulick-Clark, '85, G'98**  
Bridgewater Alumni Association Ex-Officio
- Mr. Ohene Asare**
- Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., '83**  
Ex-Officio
- Ms. Clare Cole, '87**
- Mr. Christopher Cooney**
- Mr. Jack Badavas, '25**  
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- Mr. George Gurley, G'82**
- Mr. Aenis Harris Jr., '94**
- Ms. Lori Hindle, '97, G'23**
- Mr. Wayne Lombardi, '92**
- Dr. Jean F. MacCormack**  
Bridgewater State University Board of Trustees Ex-Officio
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- Mr. Daniel W. Smith**
- Mr. Joseph St. Laurent, '88**  
Immediate Past Chairperson

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Vice President
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Secretary
- Ms. Colleen V. McIntyre, '97**  
Treasurer
- Mr. Nicholas E. Promponas, '89**  
Assistant Treasurer
- Mr. Matthew J. Quimby, '04, G'07**  
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- Mr. Keith J. Benoit, '81**
- Ms. Vinda Butler, '08**
- Margaret A. Caulfield, Esq., '00**  
Alumni Trustee
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- Dr. Kelly J. Duggan, '06**
- Ms. Michelle A. Hacunda, '12**
- Ms. Mia Hazlett, '95**
- Mr. M. Scott McDonald, '80**
- Mr. Christopher McMillan, Esq., '11, G'17**
- Ms. Jessica McNeill, '14**
- Mr. Dave Morwick, '64**
- Mr. Timothy P. Millerick, '82, G'86**
- Mr. Colby Shannon, '25**  
Student Director
- Mr. Matthew T. Rushton, '15, G'20**
- Ms. Joie H. Steele, '04**



## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

### THE DEAN DAVID AND JUDY DEEP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Robert (Bob) Haynes Smith, '75, G'87

Fifty-two years later, Robert (Bob) Haynes Smith, '75, G'87, remembers "Dean Deep" and "Nurse Deep" – as each were known back in the day – like it was yesterday. He remembers their welcoming smiles, their support, their sage advice.

"Dean Deep and Nurse Deep (pictured right) were, in many ways, surrogate parents to us," said Mr. Smith. "They led by example, treated us all with respect and kindness. Listened to us. They were always fair. And always helpful."

"Nurse Deep was genuinely interested not only in each student's physical health, but also in our emotional and social well-being. And in her calm and cool way, she taught us how to best take care of ourselves in and out of the classroom."

In 1963, David Deep was an instructor in the Department of Health and Physical Education and coached several college teams. In 1965, he accepted the position of acting dean of men from then President Rondileau. The rest is history. Over the years, BSU recognized his many talents. He retired in 1988 as vice president for student affairs. Judy Deep was recruited by Dr. Ellen Shea, '35, and served for 23 years as the university's head nurse, overseeing the health, care and well-being of countless students.

David Deep passed away last year; Judy, brokenhearted, passed away three weeks later. Prior to their passing, the university endowed an already existing fund that had been created to honor the Deep's longstanding service to BSU. The existing fund was formally established as the Dean David and Judy Deep Scholarship Fund.

It comes as no surprise, then, that when Mr. Smith, a long-time supporter of the university and friend of the Deeps, realized he could direct his annual giving to the Deep's scholarship fund, he embraced the opportunity.

Mr. Smith is retired now having spent 10 years as an elementary school teacher and another 25 as an elementary school principal. Throughout the years, he maintained a relationship with BSU, working part time as a student advisor, participating in alumni events, assisting in

the athletic department and is now serving on the Athletic Hall of Fame Nominating Committee.

"For me, what is most impressive at BSU is how people work together and support each other," he said. "I would encourage anyone to support BSU. It's a way of saying, 'Thanks BSU, for all you've done for us, for our families, for our friends.' BSU is the glue that keeps everyone together. Donations are a wonderful way to celebrate the impact Bridgewater made on our lives."

Mr. Smith then sums it up in a sentence or two: "Judy and Dave inspired students to be thoughtful, caring, and supportive adults. They made a difference and those of us who knew them will be forever indebted to them."



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"Dean Deep and Nurse Deep were, in many ways, surrogate parents to us. They led by example, treated us all with respect and kindness. Listened to us. They were always fair. And always helpful."

- BOB HAYNES SMITH, '75, G'87

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## STEPHANIE TADROS, '25

Double Major: Biology; Psychology

Recipient of the Dean David and Judy Deep Scholarship Fund

Stephanie Tadros, '25, is all-in when it comes to her college experience.

"The lectures and labs I've taken have given me the skills to think critically, work collaboratively, and communicate effectively," said Stephanie. "This will assist me with the molecular research I hope to pursue in the future."

While it's impossible at this stage to pinpoint exactly what her future holds, she knows it lies somewhere in the health science field. Perhaps a physician's assistant, although psychology could be a stand-alone or a nice complement to a PA. For now, however, it's total immersion in her studies – making time, of course, for her extracurricular pursuits.

A few examples: Stephanie serves as a Peer Assisted Learner (PAL) for the Bio 121 course, a position involving running a PAL session once a week to clarify topics from lectures for

a small group of students. She has been a bio lab technician, setting up and breaking down all labs as well as making test solutions, etc. She is president of the biology club, which first involved revamping the club that was disbanded during COVID.

Although Stephanie did not personally know the Deeps, their reputation is well known and revered. "If I could, I would say to the Deeps that I am honored to be a recipient of their scholarship. I think the way they lived their lives is inspirational. The scholarship feels like a validation that all my hard work has paid off. There were times, I wanted to give up, but didn't."

Stephanie credits the many support systems at BSU for helping her press on through her doubts. "Staff in the offices, individuals, professors ... you can go to any professor, even if they don't know you, and they'll help. I feel BSU is inclusive in all areas – campus life, academics, extracurriculars, diversity."



# MAGGIE DESROSIERS, '25

Double Major: Elementary Education  
dual license with a Special Education  
Concentration; Communication Studies

Recipient of the Dean David and  
Judy Deep Scholarship Fund

Above all else, Maggie Desrosiers, '25, would want David and Judy Deep to know how much of an impact they made – and continue to make – on the BSU community. “I’m really grateful and honored to have received this scholarship,” said Maggie. “And I’d thank the Deeps for being role models to students – those they knew and those they didn’t. Their impact stretches beyond the campus.”

Maggie, too, aspires to make a difference. Her goal is to secure a job as an elementary school teacher in an inclusive classroom. For those unfamiliar with the term, an inclusive classroom brings special ed students into a traditional classroom. Select special ed students, depending on needs, might leave the traditional classroom to participate in specialized skills training such as occupational therapy and the like.

“The beauty of inclusive classrooms is the opportunity for special ed students to socialize,” said Maggie. And, she added that the model starts the conversation for more traditional students to normalize and value relationships with their classmates with disabilities.

Maggie, however, is not waiting for graduation to make a difference. She works with the Children's Physical Development Clinic at BSU, is involved in many philanthropic efforts through her sorority, and finds the time to be a tour guide.

“As a tour guide, I tell prospective students, ‘Whatever you put into BSU is what you’re going to get out of it. School, job, the more heart you put into whatever you do, do it with passion. Good will come of it.’”

Maggie credits BSU with increasing her confidence, growing as a person, and finding her voice. “When you have a place like BSU to support and encourage you,” she said, “good things happen.”









# THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP

The bonds of friendship survive years, especially when that friendship is forged during a pivotal time in the lives of the friends. Such is the case for Art Silva, '72, and Joel Weissman, '72.

Both were leaders on campus, Mr. Silva served as senior class president; Mr. Weissman as president of student government. "We complemented each other," said Mr. Silva. "Joel was responsible for all students; I had the seniors. Together, we got things done quietly." Over time, sharing stories, attending meetings, even sharing Thanksgiving dinner, the two bonded.

"I have not visited with Arthur since the day we graduated," said Mr. Weissman. "Even though we came from different backgrounds, even different fraternities, the camaraderie was there. For whatever reason, none of that held us back when it came to the intertwinement of worlds. We became friends, and the friendship has continued even though we have not had any contact."

Thanks to an invitation by President Clark, the two reunited on campus taking up where they left off.











## LIFE OF THOUGHTFULNESS

### Eileen Iacaponi Silva, '68, and Art Silva, '72, Endowed Scholarship Fund

Many things influence a person as they walk their chosen path. Some things more than others. Art Silva, '72, was influenced by Bridgewater's motto, "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister," and he has embraced it as his guiding principle as he moved through his life's journey.

For Mr. Silva, Bridgewater was more than a fine education. You can only think when you listen to him that not only the Bridgewater education, but also the culture of the institution prepared each student to live a life of thoughtfulness and consideration.

"Bridgewater helped us set our path," said Mr. Silva. "You knew what you wanted to do, and what you didn't want to do.

"I had outstanding professors with a passion for teaching. They believed in you. We came out with knowledge and confidence," and a solid understanding of what it means to belong to a community.

Following his graduation, Mr. Silva taught history at New Bedford High where he met his wife, Eileen, Class of '68, an English teacher. "Eileen was a wonderful teacher," he said, "always invested in the success of each of her students. She always demonstrated kindness to everyone."

While Eileen continued teaching, Mr. Silva supplemented his income by working as a security guard at Dartmouth Mall and the New England Patriots' home games. Returning to Bridgewater, he was the first manager of the Rathskeller and worked as a weekend assistant manager for the Student Union. Post Bridgewater, his natural business acumen took him to the Ford Motor Company in Waltham and, ultimately, to Sioux City, Iowa where he was co-owner of the Ford dealership there. In 2001, he bought the Lincoln Mercury Toyota dealership. When he retired in 2007, he sold his business and spent the next several years fundraising for a Catholic High School.

Sadly, Eileen passed in 2021. Mr. Silva chose to honor her when he established the Eileen Iacaponi Silva, '68, and Art Silva, '72, Endowed Scholarship Fund at BSU for undergraduate students who are residents of the Southeastern Massachusetts region and demonstrate financial need.

When asked to share his philosophy of giving, he said, "I believe if a person is blessed with any type of success, it is important to share it. We must respond to true need, to help where help is needed to whatever degree, because that becomes a frame of mind."

Fast forward to today. He is president and CEO of the Boys and Girls Home in Sioux City, a residential and out-service facility for children aged 6-18 who have experienced trauma. "The Boys and Girls Home was looking to add someone with business acumen," said Mr. Silva. "I've worked with them for 12 years now, and it's the hardest job I've ever had, but the most fulfilling."



# ACTS OF KINDNESS

## JOEL M. WEISSMAN, '72, SCHOLARSHIP

Everyone has a story.

Joel Weissman's story as to how a kid from Brooklyn, New York, with limited finances, came to enroll in Bridgewater State seems improbable. Mr. Weissman, himself, calls it "beyond credibility but all true."

The story begins. Mr. Weissman was accepted to Bridgewater and required to appear for an in-person interview but lacked the funds to get there. As it happened, he had entered a radio contest. You know the kind: if your name is called on air, you have one hour to call the station, name the top songs, and win, in this case \$77. Against all odds, the call came. Mr. Weissman, however, was working one of his three part-time jobs, but thanks to his brother who was home and his sister who knew the songs, he won. The check arrived; he traveled to Bridgewater, and the rest is history.

In 1984, after a dozen years practicing law for various law firms, he established and built his own thriving family law practice,

Joel M. Weissman, P.A., based in West Palm Beach, Florida.

When asked what his key takeaway from Bridgewater was, Mr. Weissman answered in a word, "kindness." Dr. Henry J. Fanning Jr., G'61, then dean of admissions; Mary Denton, housemother for the men's dorm; and members of the faculty and administration immediately came to mind. In the end, Mr. Weissman not only earned his degree but also said, "I gained a positive perspective on how to transition oneself from college to the adult world."

Mr. Weissman speaks of his family law practice and his understanding, for example, of the devastation caused by the dissolution of a marriage. "It's not merely that love is gone, it's shared goals and memories of a relationship that is no longer. From the beginning of my practice and thanks to my Bridgewater experience, I developed ways to assist clients, to let these individuals know that there is a whole community of people who will be there for them."

A consistent and generous supporter of BSU, Mr. Weissman established a scholarship for out-of-state students in 2001. When prompted to share his perspective on philanthropy, it's not surprising that the word "kindness" features prominently.

"People speak of kindness as being considerate and compassionate. And that's true," he said. "But kindness is also to appreciate the good fortune you may have had and someone else did not.

"Kindness is the ability to address in words, deeds, or dollars your thankfulness to an entity or a person. In this instance, to Bridgewater, so others can appreciate truly how Bridgewater created in you the form of person you became.

"Each person has an opportunity to be kind to the next generation who, then, can appreciate the same acts of kindness for the following generation. Kindness continues indefinitely.

"That's Bridgewater."





## ANDREW VITIELLO, '24

Major: Aviation Science with a Flight Concentration  
Recipient of the Joel M. Weissman, '72, Scholarship

Andrew Vitiello, '24, calls it like it is – “living in the sky.” Flying, he says, has always called to him.

Andrew has worked long and hard throughout his academic years, always with his eye on the prize. The prize, in his case, is earning the four flight certifications he needs to graduate. He already has his private pilot's license (PPL) and is close to receiving his Instrument Flight Rules (IFC) certification. That just leaves the final two – Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) and commercial pilot license.

Following his graduation in 2024, he hopes to be hired as a flight instructor for BSU. His ultimate goal is to work his way up from a regional airline to a captain on international flights.

But getting from here to there is an expensive proposition for aviation science majors, especially in the flight concentration. Andrew is enormously thankful for having received the Joel M. Weissman, '72, Scholarship, which is a boon to him given his out-of-state status and the extra cost of flight training.

“I am extremely grateful to Mr. Weissman. School means so much to me and my family. My goal is to graduate with as little debt as possible,” he said, not only for his own peace of mind, but also, because he foresees giving back to BSU in the future.

But flying is not all Andrew does. Prior to coming to BSU, he was very involved with his town's local baseball league, regularly volunteered in a local home for the elderly, and has raised money for disabled veterans, saying “I consider this the best work I've done.” He's a member of the BSU Flight Team and has said he “met some awesome people who share my interest and general goals related to the aviation industry.”

“College,” he said, is an investment. “An experience shouldn't just be an experience. It's an investment in your future. It allows you to make a better life for yourself. If I want to get where I want to go, I need to invest now, work hard, and pay it off later.

“I am one step closer to achieving my dreams,” he said, “I have BSU faculty, staff, resources, experiences and, the Weissman scholarship to thank for that.”



# ABBIE STYRAN, '25

Double Major: Communication Studies; Theatre Arts  
Recipient of the Joel M. Weissman, '72, Scholarship

Abbie Styran, '25, excels at multi-tasking. Even juggling her double major, Abbie involves herself in all aspects of campus life.

She performs in multiple acting practicums; is on the E-board for the Residence Hall Association where she holds the positions of secretary and national communications coordinator; is a member of both the Student Theatre Association and the Refined Movement Dance Team. She is employed by BSU's Center for Student Engagement and is a member of Bristaco's Street Team, scheduling Bristaco, creating digital media announcements and assisting the orientation team.

As an out-of-state student, Abbie's financial situation is challenging. Her parents help as much as they can, but the Joel M. Weissman, '72, Scholarship has certainly lightened the load. "I am eternally grateful," said Abbie, who found it difficult to put into words what the award means to her. To Mr. Weissman, Abbie offers "a big, huge 'Thank you.' I'm the youngest of three children and the first to attend college. The scholarship lifts the weight off my shoulders and my parent's."

While establishing a scholarship is not always possible for someone to do, Abbie sees it as a worthy example of making a difference in whatever way is possible.

"I think of the world as energy, and how it's very important we use our energy by always doing something good," she said. "Whether that something is as simple as offering a smile, how you approach a situation, or how you brighten up someone's day, it's all good energy. It's all paying it forward. It's all making a difference."

As to future goals, Abbie is looking into working in higher education, specifically with student engagement. Working in the theater world is not out of the question either.

For now, however, Abbie is focused on doing the best she can do in whatever she is doing. It's worked for her so far and is certain to work well into the future.





# SPIRIT AND STRENGTH

## GLORIA STANTON, '74, G'00, ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To capture the spirit and strength of Gloria Stanton, '74, G'00, just ask her a question – about her life's journey, about teaching, about children, about family or community. Anything. Ms. Stanton passionately embraces all of life's joys while confronting each of life's sorrows with grace.

But it is when you ask about children that she is most animated. "The bottom line is I have an absolute love for children, for treating them fairly, listening to them, and for helping them get to the best of their abilities. All children can learn," she said.

And that's where she transitions to teaching children. And shares why she established her endowed scholarship for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) students enrolled in the Master of Education Degree (MEd) in Educational Leadership Non-Licensure program.

"We need more people of color in administrative roles," she said. Ms. Stanton grew up in the racially charged 1960s, faced her own challenges, and understands many of the same challenges facing people of color today.

Regardless of ethnicity, Ms. Stanton said, "I also believe that administrators need a background in teaching and not for just two years. They need to know how to deal with students, how to deal with parents."

She noted, however, that the administrative realm lacks diversity, and she is hoping her scholarship will encourage recipients to reach for the administrative stars.

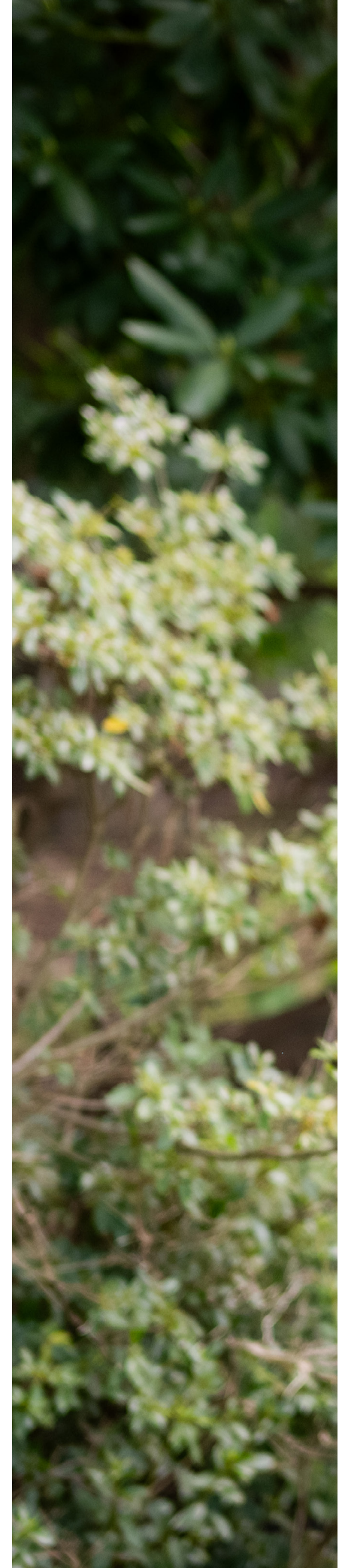
Ms. Stanton knows what she's talking about when she talks about teaching and administration. Her experience is vast and condensed here for brevity. She taught elementary school for 34 years and served as a curriculum coordinator in the Bridgewater Raynham Regional School District. She has worked as a substitute principal, an assistant principal, and a principal at various schools in the district.

Eventually, Gloria Stanton came home to Bridgewater State, serving as principal of the Burnell Campus Elementary School. She has the distinction of being the only person of color as principal of the Burnell campus school. Ms. Stanton also served as an adjunct professor at Bridgewater and, later, professor of education at Cambridge College for 25 years.

Though retired from teaching, Ms. Stanton now volunteers as an education consultant. "The job involves helping people whose kids are having difficulties. If parents of color don't know the school districts, for example, it's easier for them if someone who looks like them, guides them."

Some of Ms. Stanton's past accomplishments include co-founding member of Afro-American Alumni Association at BSU; chairing BSU's Hall of Black Achievement; and recognition as Teacher of the Year by the Brockton African American Citizens Organization and Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 2000. The list goes on.

It is no surprise, then, that in her volunteer capacity as an education consultant, she provides free services for families who cannot afford to pay but need assistance in the various public-school districts no matter what color they represent.









# ACCELERATE THE FUTURE

## ACCELERATE THE FUTURE FOUNDATION DONATES \$400,000 SCHOLARSHIPS BENEFIT SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS IN BSU'S MASTER'S PROGRAM

The Accelerate the Future Foundation (ATF) is committed to working with educators to help address the mental health crisis confronting our communities today.

Ross Lohr, managing director of ATF, said, "One of our major goals is to help social work students graduate debt free." He cited students' mounting debt over the course of a two- or three-year program, a situation exacerbated by a career field that traditionally doesn't pay well.

To help alleviate the financial burden, ATF has funded 20 scholarships for BSU social work students amounting to \$20,000 per student over two years. The fund is built around equity and inclusion in the workforce with preference given to students who are committed to and passionate about working with children and families.

ATF also aims to affect an overall system change, to develop more affordable and efficient ways to help graduates find well-paying jobs and, importantly, to advance in their chosen field. To that end, ATF is mapping out what mental health jobs are available in MA from direct services up to master's level social workers and clinicians.

"We're bringing employers to the table," said Mr. Lohr. "Asking how many jobs are available? What is the growth potential? We're focused on building out a well-defined career ladder in mental health.

"System change doesn't come immediately. It takes time," said Mr. Lohr, but it's abundantly clear that ATF is committed to putting in the time.

## RENAE RABB CONWAY, G'24

One of 20 Recipients of the Accelerate the Future Scholarship



### HELPING PEOPLE IS IN HER DNA.

Ever since childhood, Renae Rabb Conway, G'24, was the go-to classmate who offered support when support was needed, a hug when a hug would suffice. A kind word. A Band-Aid.

Renae said, a little tongue in cheek, that if helping wasn't a natural characteristic for her, "I would have chosen a more lucrative career." But she understands that money isn't everything, and social work is her passion.

Her gratitude as a recipient of two of Accelerate the Future's \$10,000 scholarships is clear. In terms of thanking the foundation, she said, "There are no words. I think letting them know that future generations will be impacted through the work of all the recipients. We will be working with communities, so the best way we can say 'Thank you,' is to do the work.

"I do think this scholarship shines a light on the need for diversity in the field," she said. "I identify as biracial, and even with my

ambiguous skin color, different communities connect with me. Some people are surprised I don't speak Spanish, but I say, 'Teach me.' And we connect."

Renae talks a little about race and culture and how clients from different ethnicities will benefit from social workers who look like them. "Take, say, African American parents, for example. If they don't have to explain the challenges they face as African Americans, it takes a little work off the client. Or culture. Same thing. People are the experts of their own lives. It's our job to listen."

Currently interning at the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in Hyannis, Renae appreciates the opportunity for hands-on learning. Her long-range goals lean toward working with children and families and/or becoming a professor and guiding others along their unique journeys. Renae will continue the DCF internship through the fall semester.

"Social work is right up my lane," she said. "A social worker can work in hospitals, schools, agencies without ever having to fit into a box."

Renae circles back to the scholarships. "Several students in my cohort received this award. As for me, it was a huge relief. The thought of being selected makes us each feel so grateful."

## AUSTIN QUINTAL, G'24

One of 20 Recipients of the Accelerate the Future Scholarship



*"When I think of the challenges people face, I think of the growing mental health challenges. I want to help children who have experienced trauma or mental health issues. I'd also like to work with a broad range of demographics. This Accelerate the Future award is going to make a world of difference to me."*





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- Reunion Class Celebrations
- Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
- Flying Ivories – Dueling Pianos

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**SATURDAY FEATURED EVENTS**

- BAA Annual Meeting
- Trolley Tours of Campus
- Alumni Champagne and Bloody Mary Brunch
- Bristaco's Block Party in University Park
- Pre-Game Celebration at The Riviera Café (The Riv)
- Rathskeller Party Tent at Swenson Field Lot
- BSU Football vs. Westfield State



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