Cherished Friends,

The Boston HERC is forever grateful for you and the many ways you have shown us support over the years. This year brought both hope and sorrow: hope that we were able to connect with our students fully in person once again to build the relationships that we know are critical to our students’ success; and sorrow as we experienced the tragic loss of the Boston HERC’s Board Chair, Dr. Roberto Miranda, who founded this organization in 1999 together with Founding Executive Director Sam Acevedo.

As I have moved into the role of CEO to continue building this organization to serve the next generations of young people to reach their Greatness, I am so grateful for each of you. At his celebration of 23 years of service, Sam encouraged us to “not grow weary of doing good.” Thank YOU to each one of you who has supported the Boston HERC over all these years and who has not grown weary of supporting our first-generation students through their journeys to reach their goals and dreams.

As we move beyond the pandemic, we press on and rejoice with each of you as we see our students in person, growing and thriving in their education, their careers, and in their service to others and the community.

With gratitude,

Carolina De Jesus
CEO

Thank you to our Boston Public School partners!

Boston Community Leadership Academy-McCormack
Charlestown High School
Dearborn STEM Academy
East Boston High School
English High School
Fenway High School
Jeremiah E Burke High School
Josiah Quincy Upper School
Margarita Muñiz Academy
New Mission High School

PROGRAM IMPACT

819
STUDENTS ENROLLED in programs

649
Passport to College students (9th -12th grade)

170
Alumni Success Students (Post - secondary)

10,000 + HOURS OF PASSPORT WORKSHOPS

CLASS OF 2022

98.5% (of 272 Seniors) GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL

85%
ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION
74% in college
11% in alternative programs

CLASS OF 2021

86%
PERSISTED FROM THEIR FIRST TO SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE

MADE POSSIBLE BY

140 + Philanthropic partners

10 Boston Public School Partners
MEET JULISA. . .

Just two years out of college, Julisa is already a powerful agent of change in her community. As the Office Coordinator for City Councilor Julia Mejia, community outreach is a daily part of her work. But on her own time, she also volunteers at her church where she works to connect the most vulnerable people to resources they may need, such as food and housing. She is passionate about building a sense of community among people, advocating for mental health resources, and getting more people of color involved in politics and community change.

Julisa credits the Boston HERC with “planting the seeds” she needed to get to where she is thriving now. She is the youngest of four siblings and was the first to attend college, so she had to navigate the college application process without help from home. She explains that her Boston HERC Coaches not only helped her through the whole college process but also stuck with her once she was in her first year of college. Julisa started college at UMass Boston but knew she really wanted to have the experience of living on a college campus, so her Boston HERC Coach, Wilmary, helped her find a community service scholarship to Boston University. Julisa applied and received a full-ride. “Were it not for Boston HERC,” she explains, “I would not have had the opportunity to attend such a prestigious university and take advantage of all the opportunities that offered me. My life would probably look really different.”

Julisa’s college journey also encouraged one of her older sisters to return to school. With Julisa’s help, her sister applied to college and, this coming May, will graduate from UMass Boston. Julisa is already transforming the community around her, and we can’t wait to see all she will accomplish in the years to come.

. . . AND DIANNE

Dianne worked her way through her junior year of high school at the height of the pandemic, in front of a screen, one Zoom meeting at a time. But she didn’t let that stop her from enrolling in Passport to College, even though it meant one more Zoom meeting at the end of her day. “I knew I wanted to go to college and be a nurse, but I was clueless about where to start. By my Senior year in this program, I had so much knowledge. Being virtual was hard, but it was so amazing when we got to start going in person to make connections with our Coaches,” explains Dianne.

Dianne knew she was interested in nursing having been a caretaker for her dad who has diabetes. “My parents are from Guatemala, and my mom wanted to become a nurse but didn’t have the opportunity. So they are really proud of me and glad that I do,” Dianne shares. She is particularly interested in working with youth who may be struggling with mental health issues and addiction.

It was hard for Dianne to adjust to her intense college schedule, but she advocated for herself and reached out for help. Dianne meets with her Boston HERC Alumni Success Coach, Ferlisa, on a regular basis. She says, “I love Ferlisa. Just like with my Coaches in high school, I know I can reach out any time with anything I’m feeling. She’s helped me so much with figuring out finances. She’s also met with me and my mom since she speaks Spanish and can help my mom understand things too.”

Dianne says all of her hard work will be worth it when she can “really make a difference in a patient’s day.” We know that soon she will.
Thank you to all our philanthropic partners and volunteers who make this work possible!

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- Barnes and Thornburg Racial and Social Justice Foundation
- Boston After School and Beyond
- Boston Public Health Commission
- Boston Public Schools
- Cabot Family Charitable Fund
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- Chirag Foundation
- City of Boston
- City of Boston’s Office of Workforce Development
- Cummings Foundation
- Emmanuel Gospel Center
- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation
- Hestia Fund
- IBM Club-Massachusetts
- Imago Dei Fund
- John and Naomi Tomfohrde Foundation
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Michael T. Sherman Foundation
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- Shake the Cosmos Foundation
- The Spark Foundation
- State Street Foundation
- Symphony Church
- Tech Goes Home
- The Boston Foundation
- Wellington Management Fund
- Yawkey Foundation

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**AUDITED FINANCIALS**

**Revenue and Support:** $1,041,493

**Total Expenses:** $777,541

**Change in Net Assets:** $263,952