

20  
23



BOSTON  
HERC

ANNUAL REPORT



*Agents of Change*

Boston Higher Education Resource Center  
62 Northampton St. Boston MA 02118  
617 221 6495 | [info@bostonherc.org](mailto:info@bostonherc.org)



**“I’M THE FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO GO TO COLLEGE AND THE OLDEST OF FOUR SIBLINGS. I’M PAVING THE WAY FOR THEM TO GO TO COLLEGE TOO. AND I’M NOT GOING TO STOP HERE.”**

**YASMIN JAMA  
PASSPORT TO COLLEGE '20  
LESLEY UNIVERSITY '24**

### Dear Friends,

We celebrate another meaningful year with you and share a glimpse into the impact that YOU make possible every day at the Boston HERC.

The impact of our work together includes the amazing young people in this report, but it also reaches far beyond any individual. Our students are breaking generational cycles, they are innovating solutions in their communities, and they are building on their communities’ and families’ strengths and sacrifices. They are changing our city for the better--whether in our hospitals, local businesses, government, STEM careers, schools, or financial institutions.

And this is all possible because of you—the agents of change who power the Boston HERC and support our first-generation students through your contributions of time, talent, and treasure. Thank you for always showing up, for always saying yes, and for believing in our young people. Gracias.

Gratefully,



**Carolina De Jesus & The Boston HERC Staff Team**



# PROGRAM IMPACT

FY 2023 (School Year 2022-2023)



**1,259 Students**

887 students in Passport to College (9th to 12th Grade)

372 students in the Alumni Success Program (post-secondary)



**11,000+** Hours of programming



**51** College Visits, Field Trips, and Special Events

## CLASS OF 2023

**327 of 331**

(98.8%)



**Seniors graduated from high school**

**84%**

enrolled in post-secondary education (78% in college and 6% in alternative programs)



**95%**

followed through on their enrollment plans this Fall (thanks to summer melt prevention coaching!)

**85%**

of the Passport Class of 2022 persisted from their first to second year of college



**73 Alumni**

in their first and second years of college were active in Alumni Success cohorts



Powered by

**150+**

Philanthropic partners and volunteers





Rossily (right) is pictured with her Alumni Success Coach, Ferlisa Comas (left)



## Rossily Santana

Passport to College Class of 2020  
Lincoln Tech Class of 2023

Rossily is unstoppable. She arrived from the Dominican Republic only four years ago without knowing any English, she completed two years of high school in the midst of a global pandemic while juggling a job in a brand new country, and then worked her way through a Medical Assistant certificate program. And she did it all without family supporting her.

When Rossily graduated high school, she hit a real obstacle—she did not yet have the legal status to access the FAFSA. When she visited a local college to talk about enrolling, the person at the front desk shamed her for not having documents in front of a room full of people and Rossily quickly became discouraged and depressed. Rossily credits her Alumni Success Coach, Ferlisa, with encouraging her to prove that person wrong and not let one cruel person throw her dreams totally off track. Since then, Rossily has made it her mission to prove any naysayers wrong and advises other young immigrants, **“Even when things are difficult, you can still decide what you want to do. No one else can decide for you. If you have a goal, stay focused on that goal. If someone has told you that you can’t do something, use that as a motivation to show them and yourself that you can.”**

Once Rossily received her documents and could access the FAFSA, she enrolled in Lincoln Tech’s Medical Assistant program with Ferlisa’s help. Every day, she woke up at 5am to head to her classes, followed by a full 8 hour shift at a fast food restaurant, to then get home at midnight and get right back up at 5am to start again. Now Rossily works as a Medical Assistant with patients in the psychiatry department of Boston Medical Center, using both her English and Spanish to provide care, and is exploring college nursing programs with Ferlisa to continue her studies.

She says, **“Completing that program while working was really, really hard. I didn’t have any free days ever but it was all worth it. And that’s how I know I’m not done studying. I want to keep advancing to become a nurse practitioner. I have more goals to reach.”**

## Josue Argueta

Passport to College Class of 2017  
Suffolk University Class of 2021

Josue, the graphic designer of this annual report, is a digital marketer and content creator. As a middle schooler, he discovered that he was tech savvy and loved engaging people on social media. Over time, he realized that his passions could become his career path.

From the time he was very small, Josue grew up visiting his parents on the Boston College campus, where they worked. On campus, he would imagine what it would mean for him to be the first generation of his family to go to college and have the opportunities that his parents didn’t. When Josue learned about the Boston HERC in high school, he signed up right away, even though it meant commuting in from Malden each week. He knew he wanted to go to college but needed guidance on how to get there.

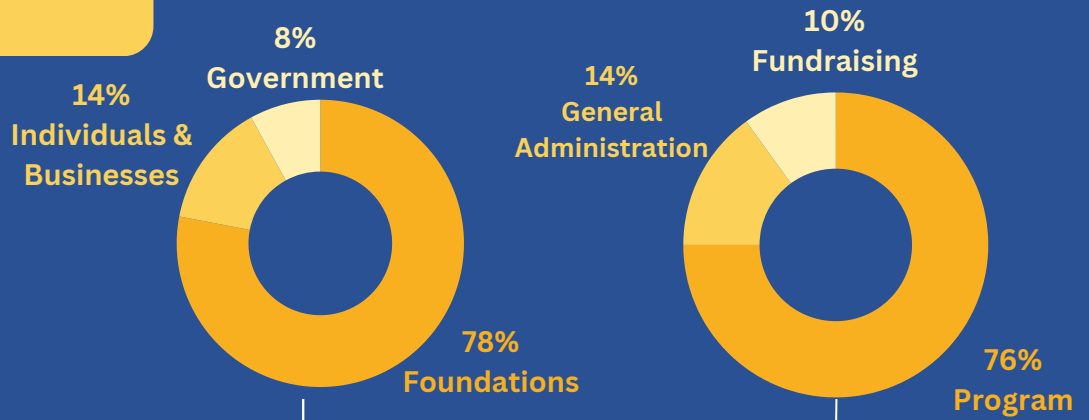
Josue shares, **“Receiving that college degree was a win not only for me but for everyone in my family. I think back to the sacrifices that my parents made for us growing up to ensure we were on the right path. I knew when I was walking that stage at graduation that I was walking it for my parents as well.”**

After graduation, Josue immediately landed a job as a digital marketer with a local company. And he’s just getting started. He plans to work for a larger digital marketing agency, and open his own restaurant.

Josue is giving back to the Boston HERC because he wants more young people to be able to take advantage of the opportunities here. He explains, **“it definitely put me in the right direction and helped me define my goals. From there it was a matter of me taking action and bringing my goals to life. I don’t know where I’d be today if it wasn’t for the resources that the Passport Program made available to us.”**

# AUDITED FINANCIALS

FY 2023



Revenue & Support: **\$1,513,275**

Total Expenses: **\$998,428**

Change in Net Assets: **\$514,847**

## Thank You to our Philanthropic Partners & Volunteers!

### Institutional Donors

Anchor Church  
Amelia Peabody Foundation  
Barnes & Thornburg Racial & Social Justice Foundation  
Boston Public Schools  
Bushrod H. Campbell & Adah F. Hall Charity Fund  
The Carl & Ruth Shapiro Family Foundation  
Charlotte Foundation  
Chirag Foundation  
City of Boston  
City of Boston's Office of Workforce Development  
City on a Hill Church  
Cummings Foundation  
Emmanuel Gospel Center  
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation  
Imago Dei Fund  
John H. & H Naomi Tomfohrde Foundation  
Junior League of Boston  
Liberty Mutual Foundation  
Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

Massachusetts Office of Housing & Economic Development  
Michael T. Sherman Foundation  
Mifflin Memorial Fund  
New Commonwealth Fund  
Oasis Systems  
Old South Church  
Pentecostal Tabernacle  
Shake the Cosmos Foundation  
The Schrafft Charitable Trust  
The Spark Foundation  
State Street Foundation  
Symphony Church  
Tech Goes Home  
The Boston Foundation  
Wellington Management Fund

### School Partners

Boston Community Leadership Academy  
Charlestown High School  
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  
Revere High School

### Individual Donors and Volunteers

Sam Acevedo & Marina Miranda  
Diana Acevedo  
Sam Afari Aikins  
Veronica Aguilera  
David Allen  
Tito & Dazlee Alvarado  
Noe & Lina Alvarez  
Mariette Ayala  
Evelyn Barajas  
Christopher Barker  
Robert Barrett & Andi Casian Barrett  
Jeff Bass  
Aixa Beauchamp  
Iris Bonilla-Yoon  
Peg & Bill Bonnice  
Shelly Borg  
Rob & Nancy Bradley  
Jamie Bush  
Miguel Canan  
Ted & Nancy Casian  
Richard Chang  
Tom & Nancy Colatosti  
Martha Condry

Brian & Cathy Corcoran  
Robin Coyne  
David & Elizabeth Diaz  
Erin & Darwin Diaz  
Carolina De Jesus  
Jahvon Dockery  
Luisa Maria Emiliano  
Dalvin & Yajaira Estrada  
Caroline Gakuya  
Christine Gakuya  
Louise Herman  
Carolee Howell  
Victoria & Phil Jackson  
Judith Jaquez  
Shilove Jean-Baptiste  
Heather Johnson  
Jennifer & Dano Jukanovich  
Sharon Kumar  
Mercedes Lopez Miranda  
Karen Mejia  
Julimar Lugo  
Heang Ly  
Omar Maldonado

Clemente & Elba Marcillo  
Antoniya Marinova  
Erin Matheson  
Bernice McField Avila  
Tammy & Pat McLeod  
Joanne McNally  
Karen Mejia  
Danielle Mendola  
Elijah & Stacie Mickelson  
Maretta Mitchell  
Michele Mitsumori  
Adriane Musgrave & Brian Rogan  
Andrew Nilson  
Jennifer Oakley  
Jeanette Ortiz Stokes  
Jean & John Peteet  
Rory Pheiffer  
Evan & Nicole Piepenbrink  
Ben & Valerie Pierce  
Teresa Pregizer  
Arnolt & Yulieith Ramos  
Heather Repicky  
Marcine Ricketts

Monica Roberts  
Regina & Jua Robinson  
Carolina & Manny Samudio Ortega  
Kasturi Sanjiv  
Nelva Santiago  
Wilson Santos  
David & Mary Shahian  
Abhishek Sharma  
Dee Silveira  
Herman Smith  
Diane A Suda  
Nellie Theroux  
Jonatan & Tricia Toledo  
Ted Tolles  
Natalia Toscano  
Damaris Velasquez  
Yidi Wang  
Kit Williams & Neil Diver  
Regan & Ruth Wong  
Dave Zagunis & Annie Rodriguez  
Wendy Zhen