

## *The Community's University*

As Boston's urban public university, the University of Massachusetts/Boston is dedicated to the principles of access, diversity, and excellence.

The University is the primary entry-point for Asian immigrant and refugee students to gain higher education beyond the two-year community colleges.

We recognize that Asian Americans constitute the fastest growing minority group in both the state and the nation. Our Downtown Campus is located next to Chinatown and our Harbor Campus is based in Dorchester where the Asian American population grew by 734% during the 1980s.

## *Community Service*

*"My dream is just to help the new people get involved in fighting for their beliefs, for justice and equality."*

*-a Vietnamese student*

UMass/Boston serves the Asian American community by providing facilities and support for important community activities, such as exhibitions by the Asian American Artists Association, meetings of the Massachusetts Asian American Educators Association, the 1991 Asian American Agenda Conference, and the 1992 New England Asian Women's Conference.

## *Asian American Studies*

*"It's like a light come in to define what really I am and what I want. After I took those courses, I changed."*

*- a Cambodian student*

UMass/Boston offers the most developed Asian American Studies curriculum of any university in New England, with courses on Asian American history, Southeast Asian refugees, Asian American women, and Boston's Asian American communities. We also offer independent studies and internships, and plan to develop additional courses in history, literature, psychology, and education.

A strong Asian American Studies curriculum enables our students, regardless of their backgrounds or career paths, to be more attentive to the histories, cultures, and needs of Asian Americans. We hope this will promote long-term multicultural competence and reduce anti-Asian sentiment in our society.

Furthermore, our students develop the appropriate knowledge, skills, and perspectives to serve as future leaders in Greater Boston's Asian American communities.

UMass/Boston graduates include the Directors of the Chinese Progressive Association and Women for Economic Justice, the Chair of the Bridge Committee in Quincy, and many of the Asian bilingual teachers and counselors in the Boston Public Schools.

## *An Asian American Institute*

*"Before I was very silenced. But now I want to have the right to talk, speak, or vote."*

*- a Vietnamese student*

In spite of spectacular demographic growth, little information is available to either policy-makers or the general public about Asian Americans in Massachusetts.

UMass/Boston has two well-established institutes that play this important role for the Black and Latino communities—the Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture and the Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy.

With community support, we hope to establish an Asian American Institute which will complement the Trotter and Gaston Institutes and significantly strengthen our capacity to conduct applied research on Asian Americans in Massachusetts to better inform public policy.

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