

Quincy College and Women Behind Women, a local nonprofit partner for mentoring collaboration in Plymouth

A December 9th Holiday Reception was held for a January 2020 new mentoring program



Suggested Caption: McKenzie Comeau, a Quincy College student meets her Mentor, Barbara Haas, a retired, Senior Manager from Mattel for the first time at the Women Behind Women Reception.

Plymouth, MA (12/10/2019):

Quincy College, with campuses in Quincy and Plymouth, have partnered with a Plymouth based non-profit, Women Behind Women to launch formal mentoring program for women 21 years of age or older. The college and nonprofit celebrated the partnership and the holidays with a December 9th holiday reception at the Quincy College at Plymouth Campus.

Former Massachusetts Senate President Therese Murray, who represented the Plymouth & Barnstable district for over 20 years was in attendance as a guest speaker, emphasizing the power of mentoring and in the ability of all to build a positive future for themselves. Quincy

College students and mentees met with mentors and leadership from both Women Behind Women and Quincy College.



Suggested Caption: Former Senate President Terese Murray Addresses Mentors and Mentees at the Quincy College Women Behind Women Reception on December 9, 2019

Ellen Johnson, Founder and Chairwoman of Women Behind Women and a Sales and Marketing Specialist and realtor for Coldwell Banker: "Our mission is to foster collaborative mentoring among women across a diversity of life experience, careers, professional goals, and industries, to enrich each other's professional and personal experiences. The collaboration with Quincy College students, staff, and faculty was a natural fit for Women Behind Women. "

Quincy College's Director of Career Development & Internships, Karen Salhaney Smizer was approached by Women by Women Board Members to help coordinate their mentor program. Karen spoke to the group of Plymouth community leaders and both parties quickly realized the natural partnership and collaboration between the college and nonprofit.

" We are so pleased to be a part of the Women Behind Women Pilot Program. In January, we will launch the mentorship program formally. From January to June, Quincy College students from all walks of life, backgrounds, and professional interests will connect with some amazing community leaders working across the South Shore. The Women Behind Women Mentoring Program is uniquely geared toward women who are seeking support during a time of growth and change. We strive to cultivate new relationships, develop new skills, and mentor any young woman who wants a mentor in her life. The benefits are reciprocal for mentors and mentees, learning and supporting each other as a network of professional women, celebrating personal and professional accomplishments and strategizing ways to adapt to challenges. Thank you to Former Massachusetts Senate President Therese Murray for joining us at our December 9th event held at Quincy College. "

Smizer is also a mentor in addition to coordinating the program at Quincy College at Plymouth. She is mentoring a Quincy College student from Syria who is looking to build her professional development skills, studying Business at Quincy College.



Suggested Caption: Quincy College Quincy College's Director of Career Development & Internships, Karen Salhaney Smizer (right) with Quincy College student Shahed Sakbani at the December 9, 2019 event.

Mentees when asked about what they hope to gain from the program, their sentiments were diverse: career planning, transitioning to the "real world", personal branding, confidence, inspiration, English as Second Language Support, building a career, pivoting skills for a new job, living a passionate life, and improving communication skills.

The six-month mentorship pilot program will run January to June. In January, mentors and mentees will meet to develop goals and objectives. The program will hold evaluations in June to review the success of the program, strategic goals, and student and mentor success.

Women Behind Women mentors commit to a minimum of one year and mentees are asked for a six-month time commitment. Mentors and mentees design and schedule their mentoring work together with an agreement to engage with each other, at least two hours a month.

Women Behind Women mentors are women who share their experience, knowledge, expertise they gained during the duration of their careers, as entrepreneurs, students, new hires, corporate employees, professionals, and women.

2020 Women Behind Women Mentors Include: (NEED Organizational Affiliation)

Marilyn Levine

Barbara Haas

Jean Riley

Shannon Burrington

Linda Dooley

Lauri Reed

Ellen Johnson, Coldwell Banker Realty

Karen Salhaney Smizer, Quincy College
Bridge Torres
Shannon Burrington
Alex South

Women Behind Women Mentees include: (NEED hometowns)

Juawana Ellison
Madi Pirro
Shahed Sakbani, Plymouth
Deborah St. Jean, Boston
Tirsno Rui
Terez Arakelaw
Fernanda Medeiros Contini
Michelle Trask
McKenzie Comeau
Katy Wassersug

For more information on the Women Behind Women organization, visit:
WomenBehindWomen.org.

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ABOUT QUINCY COLLEGE

Founded in 1958, Quincy College is a two-year, municipally affiliated community college serving approximately 4,000 students at campuses located in Quincy and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Quincy College is an open access institution that encourages academic achievement and excellence, diversity, economic opportunity, community involvement, and lifelong learning. The College facilitates valuable learning relationships that inspire students to realize their educational and professional futures. The college offers 37 associate degree programs and 27 certificate programs in a variety of disciplines, including those within Professional Programs, Liberal Arts, and Natural & Health Sciences. The college is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and is licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to grant the degrees of Associate in Arts and Associate in Science. The college draws a diversity of students from the greater Boston area as well as 121 countries around the world. For additional information, visit www.quincycollege.edu

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