

The Pipeline from Class to Career *Quincy College and QCAP IT Fundamentals Program Students Celebrated*

Press Release Overview

- August 15, 2019 Event Details
- List of 2019 IT Fundamentals Graduates with hometowns
- QCAP and Quincy College Partnership



Suggested Caption: The first Quincy College and Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc. IT Fundamentals+ Graduating Class of 2019 was celebrated at an August 15, 2019 Event.

L to R: Dhimitraq Zguri, Quincy College Professor Mark Linnane, Ken Nguyen, Jorge Godoy, Guo Zhang, Fengdan Lu, QCAP ESOL Instructor Sam Bernstein, Qing Lian Liu, Quincy College Professor Tayo Banjo, and Kristen Schlapp, Program Director of Adult Education & Workforce Development, Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc.

Quincy, MA (8/16/2019): On August 15th, eight Quincy College IT Fundamentals+ 6 Credit Certificate Program students from Quincy College had a lot to celebrate: completing their Information Technology education in 20 weeks, many with job prospects on the horizon. The IT Fundamentals+ certificate program is funded through a Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Grant and is provided to the community by a collaboration between Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc. (QCAP) and Quincy College.



Addressing a room full of his students, their families, and representatives from Quincy College and Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc. (QCAP), Sam Bernstein, QCAP ESOL Instructor reflected on the value of the IT Fundamentals+ program: "The American Dream is alive and well in Quincy, MA. If you have a dream and are willing to work hard for it, you can succeed."

The eight students who completed the program are the first cohort of students to graduate from the IT Fundamentals+ program from Quincy College. They are:

Ivan Bulaev – Weymouth, MA
Jorge Godoy – Brockton, MA
Qing Lian Liu – Braintree, MA
Fengdan Lu – Quincy, MA
Ken Nguyen – Hanson, MA
Khin Khin Yee – Quincy, MA
Dhimitraq Zguri – Weymouth, MA
Guo Zhang – Braintree, MA

In attendance at the August 15th Graduation Ceremony held at Quincy College's Quincy Campus were representatives from QCAP and Quincy College. Quincy College President Michael G. Bellotti along with Beth Ann Strollo, Chief Executive Officer of QCAP delivered greetings to the graduates and their families along with Kristen Schlapp, Program Director of Adult Education & Workforce Development for QCAP.

Faculty Sam Bernstein, QCAP ESOL Instructor, Mark Linnane and Tayo Banjo, Quincy College Professors provided program reflections.

Guo Zhang, Dhimitraq Zguri, and Jorge Godoy shared diverse student reflections as parents, students, and professionals to fellow classmates to conclude the ceremony.



Guo Zhang reflected on how she discovered the IT Fundamentals+ Program, learning of it at her daughter's Headstart Program when she was an Uber driver. She was nervous she would miss out on this great opportunity.

Suggested Caption: Suggested Caption: Guo (Evelyn) Zhang shared her reflections as a mother, student, and

professional during the Quincy College and QCAP graduation ceremony on August 15, 2019.

"What we get from the IT Fundamentals+ Program is not only the information we have learned in the classes, but the resources we were introduced to in the program and opportunities we got from it. We learned to understand ourselves more by identifying our learning styles, setting goals, evaluating own skills. We visited MassHire, participated in a Quincy College Job Fair, and met with employers to explore the field and get resources. Thanks to all the teachers for helping us to learn and grow and to QCAP and Quincy College for having the program," Guo Zhang, IT Fundamentals+ Graduate.

Dhimitraq Zguri, an Albanian who emigrated from Italy feels more positive about his future in the United States. He came to the United States not knowing English and now he says: "I look at life with a different angle, and a more positive outlook."

Jorge Godoy of Brockton also reflected on the Class of 2019 being the first cohort of students to graduate from the IT Fundamentals+ program: "We are the pioneers of this program."

Students enrolled in the free, IT Fundamentals+ program take customized ESOL courses for IT, in addition to Quincy College classes in Operating Systems (CSI 217, 3 credits) and Principles of Customer Service (BUS 202, 3 credits). Students have also received test preparation assistance in order to pass COMPTIA Exam. Furthermore, Job Readiness and Job Placement components are embedded into program curriculum, too.

"Collaboration between Quincy College and Quincy Community Action Programs is an excellent partnership that created a streamlined pathway for non-traditional students to pursue higher education, at no cost. The IT Networking Fundamentals+ program is designed based on a customized English as Second Language course combined with a Business and Networking focus, a total of 6 college credit courses. Students can transfer credits earned and further their education into an Associate Degree program, at Quincy College. We are grateful to the Adult and Community Learning Service Department (ACLS) at Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), for funding this program and to QCAP for their partnership," Kate Lopci, Associate Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Engagement

Graduates of the program will be placed into jobs in the South Shore and Greater Boston area, as Computer User Support Specialists. This FREE program includes 6 transferable college credits, books, and all college fees. Four of the Quincy College IT Networking Fundamentals+ Program Graduates have already passed the COMPTIA certification exam with the other students preparing for their exam.

The Quincy College IT Fundamentals+ program is 230 class hours of academic and career development training on the Quincy Campus of Quincy College. In collaboration with Quincy Community Action Partners. QCAP provided job readiness training and ESOL support for students in the program. Four of the Quincy College IT Networking Fundamentals+ Program Graduates have already passed the CompTIA IT Fundamentals+ certification exam with the other students preparing for their exam.

"This program provides a unique opportunity for Adult English Language Learners to continue their English education, get practical job training through Quincy College credit courses, earn an industry-recognized credential and find a family-sustaining job in the growing field of IT. The first cohort of the IT Fundamentals+ program has shown that with hard work, dedication, and a positive outlook, they can achieve their goals of taking college classes and working in IT. Through this partnership with QCAP and

Quincy College and the generous funding through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, we are able to support the future leaders in the field of Information Technology. We look forward to supporting even more students through this career pipeline in September," Kristen Schlapp, Program Director of Adult Education and Workforce Development at QCAP.

The next IT Fundamentals Program will start September 9, 2019 and will run Monday through Thursday, 10am - 2:30pm. All classes held at Quincy College.

To be eligible for the free program students must:

- Speak and write English at a High-Intermediate to Advanced Level (SPL 5-6)
- Have a HS Diploma or equivalency
- Be interested in working as a Computer User Support Specialist or other job in the IT field.
- Be eligible to work in the U.S.
- Be able to attend the training program for 20 weeks Monday -Thursday 10:00am - 2:30pm.

To learn more about Quincy College's noncredit programs and for more details on the Fall 2019 new class of IT Fundamentals+ program, visit: <https://quincycollege.edu/program/it-fundamentals/>.

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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 36 associate degree programs and 25 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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