

News from the Institute



Supporting BIPOC Leaders in Public Service

On October 15, the institute, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the School of Public Policy co-hosted **“Supporting Aspiring BIPOC Public Policy and Service Leaders”**, a gathering of institute staff and leaders from across campus.

In brainstorming sessions, participants discussed the under- and over-representation of BIPOC communities in public policy and public service leadership roles; barriers to entering these fields; networking/mentorship for aspiring and current BIPOC public policy/service leaders; and the next steps and further discovery leading to design and implementation.

Participants joined the gathering from the Office of Equity and Inclusion, the Department of Sociology, the Berthiaume Center for Entrepreneurship, the Isenberg School of Management and others.

Civic Initiative visits Pakistan

Last month, a team of six staff from the institute and its business group, the **UMass Civic Initiative**,



WAMC Radio: A Decade of Casino Gambling In Massachusetts and Its Impacts



Institute in the News

[WAMC Radio: A decade of casino gambling in Massachusetts](#)

[Boston Globe: When people move out of Massachusetts, where do they go?](#)

[Lowell Sun: Another report issues warnings on state's economic challenges](#)

[Daily Parliament Times \(Pakistan\): A Pakistani's unbiased look at American life](#)

[Marvi Sirmed: A beacon of resilience in journalism](#)

[GBH: At least 20,000 wait to learn English in Massachusetts](#)

[Marshfield TV: Economic state of the South Shore](#)

were in **Islamabad, Pakistan**. During a three-day follow-up conference, they hosted several dozen alumni from recent cohorts of the Study of the U.S. Institutes Comparative Public Policymaking program an exchange program that has been held annually at UMass Amherst since 2010. The SUSI program is funded by the US Department of State Education and Cultural Affairs Office.

The team also met with U.S. Embassy staff and multiple Pakistani organizations focused on economic and human development. In addition, nearly 90 Civic Initiative program alumni, spanning over 15 years of Pakistan-focused programs, attended a mega-mixer.

Visit the Civic Initiative's [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [X pages](#) to see pictures.

MassBenchmarks: State Economy Keeps Pace with the Nation in Q3

The [MassBenchmarks project](#) reported recently that in the third quarter of 2024, Massachusetts's real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 2.9 percent, according to MassBenchmarks, while U.S. GDP increased at an annual rate of 2.8%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

MassBenchmarks is the journal of the Massachusetts economy and is published by the UMass Donahue Institute in cooperation with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and managed by the Institute's Economic and Public Policy Research group.

[Read the Boston Globe's coverage of the report.](#)

Boston Marathon Brings a \$500 million Economic Impact to the State

On November 13th, the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) and Meet Boston released an institute economic impact report conducted by the Economic and Public Policy Research (EPPR) group, which was commissioned to study the direct impact of one of the oldest and most historic marathons in the world, the Boston Marathon presented by Bank of America.

The \$509.1 million impact represents the B.A.A.'s operational costs, spending by marathon participants and, and other secondary economic impacts from household spending, taxes and vendor spending. For this report, the Donahue Institute examined the two categories of BAA expenditures – year-round operations and a larger set of spending associated with marathon weekend. [Read the report.](#)

[Bloomberg covered the report release and quoted EPPR Assistant Director Rod Motamedi.](#)

[Boston Globe: Here's why you should move to Massachusetts](#)

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Featured Publications

[Massachusetts Competitive Index for the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation](#): Massachusetts is at risk of losing its competitive edge as rising costs and a labor force that has not returned to pre-pandemic levels challenge the state's position as a leader in innovation and economic growth, according to this report by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation (MTF).

[MassINC report: Massachusetts Needs an Actionable Strategy to Expand ESOL Services](#): Produced in partnership with MassINC, this study catalogs the potential benefits of increasing public investment in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and offers guidance on how Massachusetts can develop an actionable strategy to make high-quality ESOL services available broadly to residents throughout the Commonwealth.

[Hiring Skilled Immigrants: Recommendations for Massachusetts](#): Addressing barriers to hiring skilled immigrants will only become more important in future years, given Massachusetts' aging labor force and increased need to fill critical job vacancies in the state. This report was prepared by the institute for the African Bridge Network.

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