



## Harvard Pilgrim's Set Sail for Success Program

Harvard Pilgrim's Set Sail for Success program is a novel, public-private partnership designed to improve graduation rates among students in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Boston. It is funded with a five-year, \$500,000 commitment from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care to the university.

An analysis of student success data at the university reveals that students who make it through the crucial first year are far more likely to graduate than students who do not, and keeping students in school is a priority at the university. Set Sail for Success aims to provide nursing and health sciences students with the support they need to get them to graduation.

The program launched in September of 2014 with an initial cohort of 20 freshmen students. It has grown every year so that for the academic year 2016-2017, 60 freshmen are enrolled and a total of 110 have been served. Students are provided with intensive, personalized advising and support. They benefit from a Harvard Pilgrim Guest Lecture Series and mentorships. The lectures, which are given by Harvard Pilgrim employees, focus on important health and leadership issues. The students are also invited to Harvard Pilgrim events throughout the year.

At the core of the program is creation of a learning community for these students. Each of them is provided with support from a paid staff advisor and equipped with a tablet preloaded with software designed to facilitate their orientation to the university. Special software will help improve writing skills and study habits along with chat and instant message features to help students connect to each other as they work on course projects. The students also take a special, one-credit course to help them successfully make the transition to college.

Set Sail for Success is a "hands on" program for Harvard Pilgrim and its employees. Through the Guest Lecture Series, invitations to Harvard Pilgrim events and functions and the mentoring component, the UMass Boston students will become part of the Harvard Pilgrim community.

Lectures in the first year include topics such as:

- Changing Roles and Opportunities for Nurses;
- How the Affordable Care Act is Impacting the Health Care Landscape; and
- Understanding and Improving Your Personal Brand.

The success of this program will be tracked and reported as results become available. Set Sail for Success is about enhancing the success of future nurses and health care professionals and helping Massachusetts prepare to fill the critical need for nurses in both clinical and non-clinical settings in the marketplace.

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