



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CUMMINGS
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
OUR PATHWAY TO SUCCESS



YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

Generating Headlines and Results

The last 12 months have been a rewarding and transformational time for Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology (BFCIT). The college installed its first female president; secured the largest philanthropic pledge in the college's history; strengthened its relationships with city, state, and federal officials; deepened its partnership with Boston Public Schools; created new industry-informed programs focused on the growing clean tech sector; brought back in-person events and celebrations; and officially gained permitting for its new purpose-built campus in Roxbury's Nubian Square! This cascade of activities has advanced the key tenets of the Future Forward Strategic Plan, and raised the college's profile among local and national media organizations, as well as the general public. In all, the college tallied 594 overwhelmingly positive media mentions since July 2021—a 127% increase compared to the year prior. This Year in Review report takes stock of this momentum by highlighting milestones from the past year that kept the college in the news.

New Leadership

AISHA FRANCIS BECOMES PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dr. Aisha Francis was appointed President & CEO on **July 13, 2021**, making her the first female and the first Black woman president in the college's more than 100-year history. She was officially installed in the role at a moving Installation Ceremony on **May 13, 2022**, and had previously served as CEO. "I am certainly inspired by the past to empower a bold future because of the history and mission of Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology. I believe you are, too," said Dr. Francis. "We have work to do. And we know what the assignment is: lead by example and learn from the past, even when, or should I say especially when, times get tough. I know that together, we will find a way, or make one."

The college also revitalized its 48-member Industry Advisory Board, which helps ensure its academic programs meet industry standards, and welcomed several new trustees to its Board of Trustees, which provides fiduciary leadership to the college (see back cover for full Board list).



BFCIT President and CEO Aisha Francis, PhD

IN THE NEWS

- **Boston institute names first female president in more than 100 years** *University Business*, 7/12/21
- **Ben Franklin Institute names first female president** *Boston Business Journal*, 7/21/21
- **Aisha Francis is the new president of BFCIT** *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, 8/9/21



Photo by Michael Lamotne

Clockwise, from back left: Cummings Foundation co-founder Bill Cummings, deputy director Laura Hiller, executive director Joyce Vyriotes, and trustees Eric Anderson, Dennis Clarke, Aisha Francis, PhD (president of BFCIT), and the Honorable Margot Botsford

Investing in the Future

THE CUMMINGS FOUNDATION

On **February 22, 2022**, The Cummings Foundation announced a transformative \$12.5 million gift to the college. The gift will support the school in continuing to develop new programs that excite students and meet the evolving workforce needs of the region's leading industries. This support will also further aid students in defraying the costs of post-secondary education. In recognition of the transformational nature of the commitment—nearly equivalent to the school's annual operating budget—the college became the Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology.

This multi-year pledge—which directly correlates to the college's Strategic Plan pillar to realize its fundraising potential—reflects Bill and Joyce Cummings' interest in expanding the reach of Cummings Foundation to include organizations that feature innovative and dynamic approaches to workforce development and create greater opportunities for communities that have historically lacked access to higher education and the career pathways it provides. The college's focus on new growing fields like clean tech, life sciences, and other technical careers aligned with Cummings Foundation's interest in this area.

"We're extremely confident that this commitment is something that the institute will use to further impact and create equity for communities that are Boston's greatest untapped resources for economic growth," said Bill Cummings. "The recent gift reflects our intense desire to support organizations and institutions that are using different and dynamic approaches to education and workforce development. I hope we will be able to create many new pathways to prosperity for all the people who have historically lacked fair access to higher education and so many opportunities that education presents for all of us."

The Boston Globe

For school, a gift of a brighter future

\$12.5m donation boosts Franklin Institute and tech students of color

ADRIAN WALKER
COMMENTARY

Less than two years ago, the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology was on the brink of extinction.

Today, it stands on the verge of transformation.

Since its near-death experience, the two-year technical school — easily overlooked in this bastion of higher learning but a beacon to the Black and brown students who flock to it — has fended off a takeover, sold its South End campus, and plotted a move to Roxbury, where it belongs.

Now the school is getting the largest gift in its history: \$12.5 million from the Cummings Family Foundation.

That kind of donation might be a rounding error for such well-heeled neighbors as Harvard, MIT, Boston College, or Boston University.

But for a school whose students are mostly poor, and with an endowment of just \$3 million and an annual operating budget of \$14 million that it cobbles together each year, it's enough to alter everything.

And it's a shock to the system in a city where the big money has followed the same well-trodden paths year after year, century up-

WALKER, Page A12

News of the Cummings Foundation's investment earned BFCIT a Page One article in the Boston Globe.



Bill and Joyce Cummings

IN THE NEWS

- **Foundation Gives \$12.5M to BFCIT in transformative gift** *Boston Globe, 2/2/22*
- **Cummings Commits \$12.5M to Boston's Only Technical College** *Boston Real Estate Times, 2/23/22*
- **Cummings Foundation commits \$12.5M** *Philanthropy News Digest, 2/25/22*

Federal Dollars – Local Impact



US Sen. Elizabeth Warren, White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy, Boston Acting Mayor Kim Janey, and other local leaders gathered for a panel discussion about how federal infrastructure investments will create more clean energy jobs.

SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN PANEL DISCUSSION

The college was delighted on **November 12, 2021**, to host Sen. Elizabeth Warren, White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy, Boston Acting Mayor Kim Janey, and other local leaders for a panel discussion about the bright future of clean energy jobs in the Commonwealth. Warren said technician training programs like those offered at BFCIT are a key part of President Biden’s plans to reinvent and strengthen the nation’s economy. “This is how the pieces fit together,” said Sen. Warren. “We’ve already gotten the bipartisan [infrastructure] bill passed and there is money to replace diesel buses, for example. But we need trained people to work on the electric vehicles that will replace them.”

CONGRESSWOMAN AYANNA PRESSLEY PRESS CONFERENCE

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley visited BFCIT on **June 6, 2022**, to deliver \$300,000 in federal Community Project Funding to develop a Clean Energy Building Automation Systems associate degree program at BFCIT. Each US representative was allowed to request funding for just 15 projects through this program for FY23. Rep. Pressley, BFCIT students, and community members held a roundtable discussion and press conference to highlight how this federal investment will help students receive the training needed to pursue good-paying jobs in the clean energy sector. This new major is scheduled to launch in January 2023.



US Rep. Ayanna Pressley discussed the future of clean energy careers.

IN THE NEWS

- **McCarthy, Warren Meet to Discuss Green Jobs, Infrastructure Legislation** *WBUR, 11/12/21*
- **Over \$8M for Rep. Pressley’s Community Projects Signed Into Law** *Targeted News Services, 3/19/22*
- **BFCIT Receives \$300K for Clean Energy Building Automation Program** *WBZ news, 6/6/22*

Building on Educational and Technical Partnerships

GINKGO BIOWORKS PARTNERSHIP

The college on **December 20, 2021** announced a partnership with Ginkgo Bioworks to develop an associate degree in biotechnology manufacturing. The program will be housed at the Nubian Square Life Science Training Center, a collaboration of organizations uniting to meet the demand for a well-trained and diverse life sciences workforce, with additional funding through a \$100,000 grant from Kargman Charitable & Educational Foundation. “There is a common misconception that only those with advanced degrees are qualified for jobs in the life sciences field. It’s time for that misconception to be corrected,” said Reshma Shetty, co-founder, Chief Operating Officer and President of Ginkgo Bioworks. “Ginkgo is committed to producing the next generation of life sciences professionals. Through this partnership, we hope to create long-term career opportunities for individuals who may not have previously considered this field.”



High school students from Dearborn STEM Academy got hands-on experience via BFCIT's Biotech Boot Camp.

DEARBORN STEM ACADEMY

BFCIT announced on **April 8, 2022**, that the entire 2022 graduating class of the Dearborn STEM Academy, a Boston Public School in Roxbury, has been granted admission for the fall 2022 term. Dearborn students were surprised at a morning assembly attended by Mayor Michelle Wu, BFCIT President and CEO Aisha Francis, and Associate Dean of Admissions Calvin Conyers. In addition to admission, Dearborn STEM Academy Scholars can nominate a family member over the age of 19 to be admitted to BFCIT. This initiative aims to provide a supported, direct path to college for students who wish to start learning career-ready technical skills but face structural barriers that might impede their access.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu at the surprise assembly.



Assoc. Dean of Admissions Calvin Conyers congratulated each scholar.

IN THE NEWS

- All Dearborn STEM Academy Seniors admitted to BFCIT *Boston Globe, 4/8/22*
- Dearborn students offered spots at BFCIT *Bay State Banner, 4/14/22*
- BFCIT, Ginkgo Bioworks to Launch Biotechnology Manufacturing AS Degree *AP News, 12/20/21*

Looking Ahead



Gov. Charlie Baker awarded state funds to clear the way for construction of BFCIT's new campus in Nubian Square.



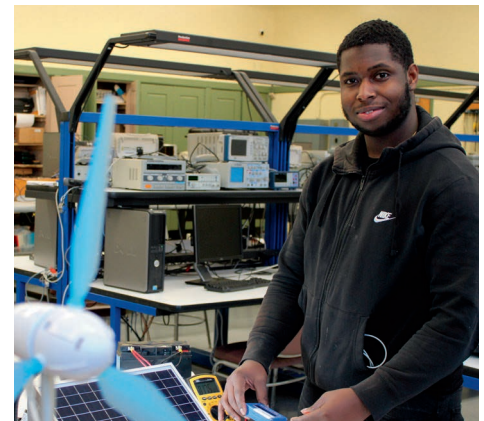
BFCIT's new LEED Gold Certified building will be a fitting showcase for the college's clean tech programs.

NEW ROXBURY CAMPUS

The Baker-Polito Administration on **April 6, 2021** awarded \$650,000 from the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund to clear the way for construction of BFCIT's new campus in Nubian Square. The building's flexible and sustainable design will house the ever-evolving clean tech programs that are the hallmark of a BFCIT education, now and in the future. Construction is expected to start in late 2022, with a planned completion date of fall 2024. Realizing a purpose-built campus is a central pillar of the college's Strategic Plan.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

BFCIT launched its redesigned Engineering Technology program on **August 3, 2021**, offering concentrations in Advanced Manufacturing & Automation Technology, Mechatronics Technology, and Renewable Energy Technology. This program is preparing students for a wide range of jobs in high-demand technology sectors, including robotics and electronics, clean energy generation, and computerized manufacturing. The first grads are expected in May 2023. This program—and others that are pending—align with the pillars in the Strategic Plan calling for a re-commitment to programs specializing in sustainability and for shorter, more flexible program delivery to meet market demands.



Students gain hands-on experience in the Renewable Energy Technology lab.

IN THE NEWS

- **BFCIT Announces Launch of Engineering Technology programs and MassCEC Offshore Wind Workforce Grant** *North American Clean Energy, 8/4/21*
- **BFCIT Shares Plans for state of the art campus** *Archinet, 8/24/21*
- **Gov Baker Helps BFCIT Celebrate Nubian Square Groundbreaking** *Banker & Tradesman, 4/6/22*

Celebrating Student Outcomes

COMMENCEMENT

The college hosted a jubilant 114th Commencement celebration on **May 14, 2022**, welcoming friends, families, faculty, staff, and trustees to celebrate the more than 200 graduates who earned BFCIT certificates, associate, or bachelor's degrees. The Commencement speakers were Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and Zipcar President Tracey Zhen. "All of you now possess a practical, specialized set of skills that you will use for the rest of your lives," Mayor Wu told the graduates. A college degree leads to a strong economic future for BFCIT students, most of whom are the first in their family to attend college. BFCIT is working toward achieving a 60% graduation rate, an incredible achievement for a two-year college and equal to the national average grad rate for four-year colleges.



Commencement was back in person after a two-year hiatus because of COVID-19.

SPRING CAREER FAIR

BFCIT boasts an 83-percent in-field job placement rate for its grads and a more than 90-percent overall job placement rate, thanks in large part to its industry partnerships. The Spring Career Fair on **April 14, 2022**, drew a record turnout of 172 students and 11 alums to connect with 58 top employers from industries including automotive, electrical engineering, engineering technology, HVAC&R, information technology, opticianry, real estate, and more. "The record attendance from both students and employers is a testament to how important it is to remain focused on delivering a career-ready workforce, which is at the forefront of our work day in and day out," said President and CEO Aisha Francis.

Employer representatives talked with students at their booths and offered on-the-spot job interviews.



IN THE NEWS

- **Mass college Commencement speakers** *Boston Business Journal, 5/6/22*
- **Wu Praises Graduates for Resilience** *Boston Globe, 5/14/22*
- **These luminaries will address the Class of 2022 at college commencements** *WBUR, 5/23/22*



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BFCIT's Board of Trustees members represent a wide range of business, employment, education, and civic organizations. The board plays a key role in the college's governance and strategic planning.

Officers

Turahn Dorsey, Chair
 Marisa Meldonian, Vice Chair
 Rahkeem Morris, Vice Chair
 Claire Wadlington, Treasurer
 Maureen Pompeo, Clerk

Trustees

Roger Berman
 Rodger Brown*
 Mary Churchill, PhD
 Chenita Daughtry
 Caroline Fay
 David Fischer
 Rachel Kaprielian*
 Ekumene Lysonge
 Paul Macrina '82
 Stetson Marshall
 Adam Pase
 Fernando Rodriguez-Villa
 Andrew Tarsy
 Rahul Yarala
 Anna Yu
 Honorable Mayor Michelle Wu,
 Mayor of Boston, ex-officio*
 Midori Morikawa, Mayor's
 Representative to the Board*
 *joined board in 2022

Hands-on Education for High-demand Jobs

Certificates

Automotive Technology	Network and Systems Support
Computer Aided Design/SolidWorks	Plumbing (Fall 2024)
CNC Machining	Practical Electricity
Cybersecurity	Software Development
Electronics Technology	Web Design Multimedia
HVAC&R Technology	

Associate Degrees

Automotive Technology	Construction Management
Biotechnology (Fall 2023)	Cybersecurity (Fall 2023)
Building Automation Systems (Spring 2023)	Engineering Technology (3 concentrations)
Computer Information Technology (3 concentrations)	- Advanced Manufacturing and Automation
- Network and Systems Support	- Mechatronics
- Software Development	- Renewable Energy
- Web Design Multimedia	Health Information Technology
	Opticianry

Bachelor's Degrees

Electrical Engineering
 Health Information Technology (3 concentrations)
 - General
 - Data Analytics
 - Public Health

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