



Spring 2018

## A message from our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate seniors are making college decisions that will be announced on May 25th at our annual Commitment Ceremony. We hope some of you will be able to attend this inspiring event held at 2:00pm at 90 High Rock St. in Lynn. The hard work of these students, their families, and the College Counseling team has created a wealth of options for their future.

This year, in addition to Posse, Questbridge and other scholarships awarded to KALC students, four seniors received scholarships from the newly launched Dave Goldberg Scholarship Program created by Sheryl Sandberg to honor her late husband. Read more about the recipients and their stories here. This scholarship includes partial tuition as well as mentorship and internship opportunities. Students were selected based on qualities such as independent thinking/entrepreneurial spirit, character, resilience, leadership, and achievement. See page 2-3 for more details.

Academic growth is ahead of where we were this time last year at both Lynn and Boston middle schools. In our elementary schools, we are ahead of last year's pace in nearly all grades. While academic outcomes continue to improve, our innovative STRIVE and ACHIEVE programs are tailored to support students of all intellectual and emotional abilities. More on page 7.

In April, 27 KIPPsters traveled to the State House with the support of KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate teacher Alvaro Peters. They took time during their spring break to attend the Children's March for Immigrant Families in Boston. We are enormously proud of our KIPPsters who spoke out in support of immigrant families and for due process for immigrants. They urged legislators and the governor to continue the DACA program and to support DREAMers. Students delivered written letters to Gov. Charlie Baker and Speaker Robert DeLeo and were subsequently able to draw connections between classroom conversations and advocating for policy in action. We also celebrate and appreciate KIPP Academy Lynn Elementary teacher Natalia Rosa for sharing her story as a founding KIPPster, current English Language Learner teacher, and DACA recipient. She was recently interviewed on Channel 7's Urban Update show that aired on May 6.

In May, we celebrated a groundbreaking event, by planting a tree, at our new KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate high school scheduled to open in Fall 2019. We are excited to partner with Mayor Thomas McGee, Senator Brendan Crighton, Lynn Public Schools, St. Marys, Girls Inc., the YMCA, the Highlands Coalition and many other nonprofits in the area in transforming educational opportunities for all Lynn students. To continue the celebration of KIPP's work in the Lynn community, we will also honor three of our longtime supporters, Joel Abramson, Tom Demakes and John Kane on May 30th. You can register to attend this event at [www.kippma.org](http://www.kippma.org)!

If you haven't been to our schools in a while, please come and see our KIPPsters in action. Contact Kate Reynolds at 781-656-4127 or [kereynolds@kippma.org](mailto:kereynolds@kippma.org) to schedule a visit. You can also read many more articles published recently about KIPP MA in the media at <http://kippma.org/news/>. I am deeply grateful for all our friends and supporters who believe in our students, families, alumni and teachers. Thank you for choosing to invest in KIPP, and I am thrilled to be on this journey with you all.

Many thanks, much love,

*Caleb Dolan*

Caleb Dolan,  
Executive Director, KIPP Massachusetts

## KIPP MA Spring 2018 Event Highlights!



Student Commitment Ceremony  
May 25, 2018

On May 25th at 2 pm, the Class of 2018 will share their plans after graduation. Check out last year's video at [www.kippma.org](http://www.kippma.org). This is KIPP MA's favorite day of the year and one that the entire high school attends. It is a joyful few hours filled with aspirations for each student's future and all are invited to join us!

Follow more KIPP stories on



Special Tribute  
May 30th

On Wednesday, May 30th from 6-8 pm, KIPP MA will honor three of our most loyal supporters, Mr Kane, Mr. Abramson and Mr. Demakes and our shared commitment to positive community change in Lynn. The event will begin at 6 pm with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and the program will begin at 7 pm. Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased online @ [www.kippma.org](http://www.kippma.org).

KIPP Massachusetts, @KIPPMASchools and Instagram at KIPPMMA  
Visit us @ [www.kippma.org](http://www.kippma.org)



5K Run and Family Fun Walk

On Sunday, June 3rd, KIPP MA will kick off our first ever 5K and Family Fun Walk! We'll meet at Red Rock Park with registration at 8 am and the race will start at 9 am. The route will follow along Lynn Shore Drive to Nahant and back. The 1st 125 runners will receive free t-shirts and the race will be timed. Sign up online at [www.kippma.org](http://www.kippma.org).

Instagram at KIPPMMA



# KIPP MA Class of 2018 Student Profiles

Students share their college counseling experiences, hopes and aspirations for the future.

**Victoria Chiek** “I want to learn and be informed so I can obtain a job where I can create policies that will impact these communities in a positive way. I want to give back to the communities that helped raise me.”



Victoria grew up in Lynn until she was 6 years old then moved to Saugus. She credits her mom, a single mom, working in real estate, with raising her and her siblings. It wasn’t an easy path. In 1975, when her mom was 2, she and her family escaped the Genocide in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge in which 1.5 to 3 million Cambodians (around 25% of Cambodia’s population) died. “My mother’s family ran to Thailand to a refugee camp where they made their way to the Philippines, then Tacoma, Washington and finally to Lynn when her mom was 12.” Victoria attended Saugus public schools until 7th grade but felt like she needed a more challenging, diverse and inspiring environment in which to learn. When she started researching other options, she found the Pioneer Charter School of Science II lottery, applied, got in and attended school for 8th and 9th grade, but faced other challenges there and had her sights set on something more. After initiating her own search, researching many schools and talking to people, she found KIPP. She entered the lottery and was put on the wait list for Junior year then finally heard that she was accepted the day before school started. From day one she found KIPP welcoming and saw, first-hand the core value of Community there. Looking back, the class she loved the most was AP English Language and Composition with Jennifer Stocklin. She also loved AP World History and developed a keen interest in learning more about the events that shaped her family’s history.

## Four KIPP MA Students Awarded College Scholarships from the Sheryl Sandberg and Dave Goldberg Family Foundation

The Class of 2018 has many accomplishments to celebrate. This fall, they will be attending Stanford, Georgetown, Mt. Holyoke, Bowdoin, Williams, UMass Amherst, UMass Lowell, George Washington University, Denison, Davidson, Vassar, New York University, Tulane University, Carleton College, University of Southern California, Vanderbilt University and many others. The class submitted 1,257 applications, received 555 acceptances, 61 of which were acceptances to KIPP National’s partner schools. On May 1st, the Sheryl Sandberg and Dave Goldberg Family Foundation announced 4 of the 30 KIPP National scholarship winners out of 350 applicants were from KIPP Massachusetts. Jessica, Jonathan, Elizabeth and Adedunmola were chosen based on their academic records and demonstrations of leadership. See below for their stories and career aspirations.

### Jessica De Los Santos

Jessica is passionate about science and inquiry. She has pursued learning opportunities at the MEDscience Simulation Lab at Harvard Medical School and through the High School Health Careers Program at UMass Medical School. Eager to bring her hands-on laboratory experiences to other students, Jessica led trips to the Biogen Lab Center and raised over \$500 to ensure her classmates could attend. In the fall, she will attend Williams College to pursue a pre-medical track.

### Elizabeth Agbedun

During Elizabeth’s time in high school, she boldly organized a movement to change school policy around allowing women to wear headwraps. She is attending Mount Holyoke College next year and plans to major in biomedical engineering in college. After finishing college, she plans to attend graduate school to pursue a career in developing affordable mechanical prosthetics. She is also the captain of the African Dance Team and the president of the Environmental Club.

### Jonathan Mejia

Jonathan has served as the Student Body President and is an advocate for greater awareness and protection of KIPP’s LGBT community. He is eager to pursue a career as a civil rights lawyer. Accepted to Georgetown University in DC, he plans to major in sociology. While at Georgetown, he also hopes to study abroad, join the Queer People of Color, and continue to explore the intersectionality of different identities.

### Adedunmola Adewale

Born in Nigeria, Adedunmola came to the United States just before she started high school. She has led policy changes in her school, mentored youth in her community, and has provided academic support to her peers. In Fall 2018, she plans on attending Bowdoin College where she’ll be majoring in Biology and minoring in Accounting, which a goal of becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon.

## Social Emotional Learning Thrives with STRIVE and ACHIEVE Programs

KIPP MA works closely with students of all abilities and backgrounds to set them up for success by supporting their growth and achievement in all areas. Classroom/pull-out spaces are designed to give students a space to develop skills, habits, and confidence while working towards individual social and academic goals. These spaces allow for a lower student to teacher ratio so that students receive targeted feedback more regularly than in the larger classroom setting. We have two programs that we focus on for students who have different impairments, our STRIVE and Achieve programs. STRIVE Classes are set up for 5th-8th grade students who have an intellectual impairment, who work at their zone of proximal development building foundation skills in all subject areas. Achieve Classes are set up for 5th-8th grade students who have an emotional impairment. This classroom creates a more therapeutic environment for students to drive development managing emotions and tackling rigorous academics.

### Elementary Math

Assessment: Math Benchmark

#### Performance Bands

**Below:** 59% of students at mastery or below

**Nearing:** 60%-69% of students at mastery

**Meeting:** 70-80% of students at mastery

**Exceeding:** >80% of students at mastery

Performance Rating:

Benchmark 2 - February 12th		
Grade Level	Boston results	Lynn results
K	85% of students at mastery	88% of students at mastery
1	71% of students at mastery	65% of students at mastery
2	71% of students at mastery	92% of students at mastery

## KIPP Academy Boston Welcomes Newbery Medal Winner, Kwame Alexander



In April our students were invited to meet Newbery Medal winning author Kwame Alexander. Mr. Alexander is an American writer of poetry and children’s fiction. His book, *The Crossover*, won the 2015 Newbery Medal recognizing the year’s “most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.” It was also selected as an Honor book for the Coretta Scott King Award. His book, *Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band*, was selected for the 2014 “Michigan Reads! One State, One Children’s Book” program. When he joined KIPP Academy Boston students in April, he was kick starting his 31 city book tour of *Rebound*, the sequel to *The Crossover*. Boston was the first stop. He talked about his inspiration of becoming an author and about his family, reciting some poems and sharing many laughs. **A big takeaway from the day was that he spoke about how the book, *The Crossover*, was rejected 22 times for being published because many of the critics believed not many females would like to read a book about basketball and not many males would read a book of poetry.** He is the epitome of never giving up and always striving to make your dreams come true. All KIPP Academy Boston students received a signed copy of the book, *Rebound*.



## Six Essential Questions:

### Are our Kids Growing and Achieving?



Our Six Essential Questions provide a yardstick by which to measure our progress, keep us focused as we grow, and—most important—help us keep the promises we make to our students and their families.

Question 3: Are our Students Progressing and Achieving Academically?

Below are some academic highlights from each school.

83%

of KALC seniors are matriculating to a four year colleges or universities

81%

KAL 8th graders scored a level 4 or above on the 2016 PARCC exam

92 %

of KALE 2nd grade students have achieved mastery at the Math benchmark

61%

KAB 8th graders scored 4 or above on the PARCC ELA exam

85%

of KABE Kindergarteners achieved mastery in math



KIPP Alumni Survey Highlights the Importance of a Sense of Belonging

KIPP has more than 11,000 alumni currently enrolled in college, and we strive to hear their stories so we can learn how to best support them. The KIPP alumni survey provides an important lens on the challenges KIPP students face in college. We hope that by sharing their insights with the higher education community and the public, their reflections can benefit all students pursuing a college degree, particularly first-generation college students and those from a low-income background. This is the second year that KIPP has published alumni survey results; in January 2017, we shared results from our 2016 Alumni Survey.

The 2017 survey focused on how KIPP alumni experience a sense of belonging in college. We can define ‘belonging’ as when students “feel that they belong in college, fit in well and are socially integrated.” We also asked alumni to share their thoughts on identity, mental health and community support in college, all of which are often tied into a sense of belonging. We examined these issues to better understand our students’ experience in college. The financial difficulties faced by students from low-income families in making it to graduation are well documented, but recently, less tangible factors—like sense of belonging—have also been shown to impact college completion rates. There is a growing body of research showing this also correlates with college persistence and success.

KIPP Men’s Basketball Brings Home MCSAO Championship



The KIPP Academy boys basketball team fell one game short of winning the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization Championship last season. This year’s team used that loss as motivation throughout the season, and it worked. On March 11 the Panthers had a second crack at the MCSAO Championship game and this time they won. KIPP beat Edward Kennedy, 59-53, in a double-overtime win at Excel Academy in East Boston to avenge last season’s loss. Making things even sweeter for the Panthers is that they gained revenge over Kennedy, the team that beat them in last year’s championship. Wallace Reed led the Panthers with a 20-point performance. Abdoul Barry added 14 points. Defensively, Dave Filius took three charges while Dominic Jette, who earned the league’s MVP award, and Pius Roberts also played strong defense. KIPP didn’t take the easy route in this one. On two separate occasions the Panthers fell behind by double digits and it seemed as though Kennedy would run away with the victory. Both times, the Panthers rallied to claim victory at last.

Mayreliz Perez, Class of 2016, Returns to KIPP to Teach at KIPP Academy Lynn Elementary



Mayreliz Perez graduated with the KIPP MA Class of 2016 and is currently teaching part-time at KIPP Academy Lynn Elementary as a one on one aid support teacher. In the fall her position will grow to full-time. She is currently studying psychology at Salem State University and is working towards obtaining her masters in counseling at Southern New Hampshire University. When she was a student at KIPP Academy Lynn she taught social studies to middle schoolers and Zumba to high schoolers. She also participated in the Dream Project in the Dominican Republic where she helped teachers with a summer school program and she was a founding Cheer-leading team leader. She thanks Jorge Ochoa who was then a Manager of College Counseling for helping her apply to 19 colleges and for supporting her dream.

*“I have always wanted to study psychology and counseling and to become a teacher. I am grateful to KIPP for giving me this opportunity so that I can now give back to the Lynn community.”*  
- Mayreliz Perez, KIPP Academy Lynn Elementary School

Alladin, Lion King, Pirates the Musical and Barnyard Moosical Hit the Stage

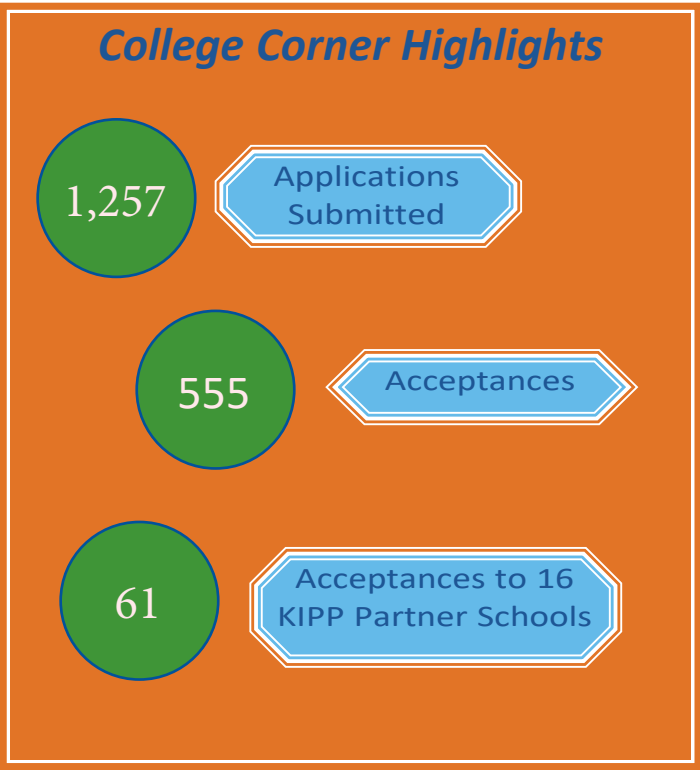


Performing Arts Teacher, Linda Rae Krov, is one of the founding teachers at KIPP Academy Boston. Since the school was founded with a class of kindergartners, she has encouraged KIPPsters to let their imaginations, dreams, and musical talent shine. Not only does she teach our K-3 students to sing and dance, but they learn to compose and play instruments as well. Every grade puts on its own full musical each year for family and friends, including Alladin, The Lion King, Pirates the Musical and Barnyard Moosical. Students also try out for a special chorus and community partners bring free violin lessons to students.

Congratulations to KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate’s Class of 2018

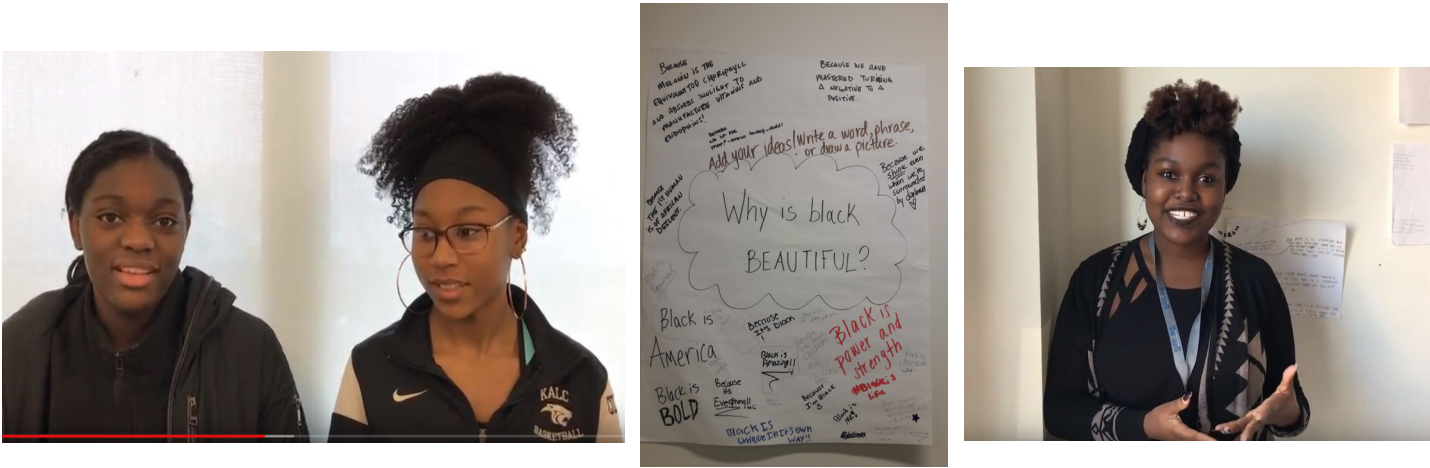
Rosseirys De La Rosa, Lynn Community Advocate, Will Attend Emory College

Rosseirys was born in Florida, spent part of her early education in the Dominican Republic and then in the traditional Lynn school system before joining KALC as a sophomore. This fall Rosseirys will be attending Emory College where she plans to study Biology with the dream of becoming a Forensic Anthropologist. She has been an active community volunteer in Lynn over the years working at local nursing homes, My Brother’s Table, Book Fairs and Tutoring. She goes out of her way to help her fellow students. She does this, she says, because she knows what it feels like to be frustrated from her early experience in other schools and that it allows her to understand others. She has worked hard all her years at KIPP often arriving at school at 7 am pushing through classes, tutoring others, and then participating in sports. She trained with the boys football team last summer but decided to play Volleyball instead and is the captain of all 3 sports she participates in, Softball, Volleyball and Basketball. Her one wish is that all Lynn schools could have more opportunities to collaborate more to increase extracurricular opportunities for all.



KIPP MA Offers Leadership Forums for Women and Girls

In Massachusetts, African- American women nationwide earn 64 cents for every dollar earned by white men, and Latinas-only 56 cents. Over 600 of our middle and high school students in Boston and Lynn are female, and 91% are either African-American or Latinas, so KIPP is strategically focused on improving college and career opportunities for this group of girls and women. We recently launched a program to support KIPP Academy Lynn middle school girls called the Women’s Forums where girls build self-esteem and workforce development knowledge and skills through visits with strong female lawyer mentors in Boston. Topics covered included learning about the practices of lawyers, how their gender is relevant to their work, parenting issues with their spouses, and how KIPP alumni are helping improve the lives of their parents. Other programs that KIPP offers to girls include our Ambassador program where we teach women to speak and present themselves confidently and to share their personal stories with visitors new to KIPP. Students quickly develop strong self-esteem and confidence by taking leadership roles and being the face of KIPP. Also, our rapidly growing Family and Community Learning program serves over 500 adult learners, 60% of whom are single moms and in February, our high school black women participated in a Sister Strong/Black Girl Magic week where they shared stories around growing up as black girls and how they built self-esteem through self-advocacy, agency and access to female mentors.





Students Speak Truth to Power with Passion and Clarity Around KIPP’s Promise and Align with School Leaders on Changes to School Culture

KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate high school (KALC), and KIPP Academy Boston middle school (KAB) students and leaders reached a decision on Dress Code in Lynn and Boston before students left for Spring break. Students Gisnael Silva, Jae-qhan McClain and others started meeting weekly with Successor Principal, Emily DoBell, and Shauna-Kaye Clarke, Dean of Students and Culture, at KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate, to discuss the issue back on March 7. The meetings between the students and leaders took place regularly at 7:45 am and the focus was to align on concerns, share common messages and common goals.

One example of a concern that was discussed centered on students sharing the negative feeling they had the minute they arrived at school with their first interaction with school leaders being mainly focused on what students were wearing. After much sharing and discussion, the compromise reached was to restructure and redesign how students are greeted at arrival time by mirroring how arrivals are intentionally structured at KIPP Academy Boston where students are greeted with music, and the focus is on warmly welcoming each student in order to begin the day positively, thus impacting the overall culture of the school. It was also determined that the dress code is written such that a student has to be in dress code after Advisories which take place after arrival to school. Students would be allowed to arrive in Do-Rags, for example, until Advisories started. In Advisories, students meet daily in groups of 10-12 of their peers for open discussion, ranging from challenges and celebrations in the classroom, to family issues. These small group connections help to build stronger relationships with both fellow students and teachers which has a positive effect on student retention. In addition, it was agreed that, as new privileges are respected and earned, other updates to the rule would be considered.

As a follow up to their own concerns and research about dress codes, on April 11 KIPP Academy Boston 8th graders, Donnelly Charles, Willmaryz Martinez and others presented their new proposal for an improved dress code to the KIPP MA Board of Directors that is more aligned with who they have become. One of their arguments for a different dress code was centered around Identity, one of our school values. They shared that the current uniform does not allow them to express their identity and individuality through the clothing they choose to wear. The students’ new dress code proposal was 1. No clothing may be worn that features offensive/profane language, racist or ethnic statements, references to tobacco, drugs, alcohol or gangs, or any suggestion of sexual or inappropriate behavior. 2. No clothing or footwear may be worn that threatens safety or health of the wearer and 3. If a student is visibly distracted by their clothing they will be provided a KIPP shirt or sweatpants.

The compromise that was reached between the KIPP Leadership team and the KIPP Academy Boston 8th graders was to launch their new dress code after April Spring break during a trial period from April 23 through May. During this time students will work with school teachers and leaders to engage parents, younger students and teachers to get their feedback on the proposed changes. In addition, school leaders will collect and analyze data, comparing and contrasting school culture, with and without the KIPP uniform, to determine impact and next steps. Results coming soon.



Family and Community Learning Program Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

At KIPP, we believe in learning as a life long journey and the importance of creating and fostering learning environments where our students, families, and the greater community can reap the benefits of utilizing our schools to keep the learning going even after dismissal and on the weekend.

Classes are a semester long, free of charge, and open to all in the community. To ensure access, we provide free childcare as well. Evening classes are offered several nights a week, and on weekends. In Lynn, five levels of English as a Second Language, Fundamentals of Computers (in both English and Spanish), Citizenship, Financial Literacy, and Fitness and Nutrition are offered to KIPP parents and North Shore community members. In Boston, four levels of ESOL as well as Financial Literacy, Citizenship, and fitness are offered to KIPP parents and Mattapan community members. In addition, workshops are hosted at both campuses in family literacy, the college process, dance, small business incorporation, and other subject areas of interest as requested by parents. Our director of student support services works one on one with students, helping with housing information and placement, basic immigration advice, and transition to community college after completing the ESOL program. He works mostly with KIPP parents.

In Lynn, forty percent of participants are KIPP family members, mostly parents, siblings, or grandparents. Forty percent come from families of in-district schools, and the remaining from the community at large. Ninety-seven percent are minority, with over 80% Mass Health recipients. Sixty-five percent of the participants are women, mostly single parents and heads of households. In Boston, over 80% of participants are non-KIPP families.

At both of our campuses we partner with multiple agencies in a two-way collaboration, such as the Highlands Coalition, North Shore Career Center, Compass Working Capital, ABCD, Mattapan United, Parenting Journey, and Union Capital Boston.

We recently celebrated our tenth year of adult education at KIPP. Over the decade, we educated over 2,000 adult learners, celebrated the US citizenship of hundreds, providing over 5,000 hours of education each year.



**KIPP MA Family and Community Learning Program Highlights**

53

Countries our families our from

5,000

Hours spent teaching per year

500

Adult learners in Lynn and Mattapan, 60% are from outside KIPP in Lynn and 80% are outside of KIPP in Mattapan

200

Parents have earned their Citizenship in the last few years

Envelope Inside Flap with tear  
off to be returned inside re-  
turn envelope with donation.



KIPP Massachusetts  
Attn: Laurie Kennedy  
90 High Rock Street  
Lynn, MA 01902

***Be a part of the transformation.***  
Support 100% of all KIPPMA students on their paths,  
to and through college or post-secondary programs.

***Donate today*** to support the growth and achievement of tomorrow's leaders!

\_\_\_\_\$100      \_\_\_\_\$250      \_\_\_\_\$500      \_\_\_\_\$1,000      \_\_\_\_Other

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**Thank you !**