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PRESS RELEASE  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Tuesday, February 10, 2009

**MASSBAY WINS GRANT FROM THE BOSTON FOUNDATION**  
*MassBay will start Young Men of Color (YMOC) Initiative*

**Wellesley Hills, Mass.** – Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay) has recently been awarded a grant of \$40,000 by the Boston Foundation. The monies will be used to fund the Young Men of Color (YMOC) Initiative.

“Recognition of the widening achievement gap between underserved populations and their white counterparts is an important step in the right direction,” said President Berotte Joseph. “We are pleased that the Boston Foundation has partnered with us through their concrete support of our project. At MassBay, we want young men of color to know that they are first, welcomed here; second, that attending college is possible; third, that we are there to support their efforts towards success; and finally, that completing a college education can become a reality.”

The Young Men of Color Initiative, a program that Athletics Director Bill Raynor has designed, is a program designed to address the increased failure rates of students of color, specifically young men of color. YMOC seeks to implement a multi-pronged outreach program to include open forums, mentoring, satellite support programs, and campus community building.

Recent studies by Northeastern University and others show that less than one-third of black males who enroll in college graduate within six years. Raynor feels that a reach out program like YMOC can help this population succeed.

“It is our hope that we will be able to, in some small way, assist these students and help them to find success,” Raynor says.

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The Boston Foundation, one of the nation's oldest and largest community foundations, has an endowment of more than \$900 million. Last year, the Foundation made grants of more than \$92 million to nonprofit organizations and received gifts of \$155 billion. The Boston Foundation is made up of about 850 separate charitable funds, which have been established by donors either for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes. The Foundation also serves as a civic leader, convener, and sponsor of special initiatives designed to build community.

#### About MassBay Community College

*Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay) is an open-access, accredited two-year public educational institution. The College grants associate degrees and certificates in a range of disciplines through its five divisions of academics: the Division of Health Sciences; the Division of Humanities; the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (S.T.E.M.); the Division of Social Sciences & Professional Studies; and the Division of Transportation & Energy. Offering over 60 academic programs, MassBay serves Boston and the MetroWest communities with locations in Wellesley Hills, Framingham and Ashland (Automotive Technology Center).*

---[www.massbay.edu](http://www.massbay.edu)---

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