

YEAR IN REVIEW

2022-2023



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice is to build knowledge about social justice, to develop skills for advancing social justice through individual and collective action, and to serve as a catalyst for actualizing Bridgewater State University's commitment to social justice.

CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to the many BSU partners, advisory board members, sponsors and individual donors for their dedication and contributions to our shared mission.

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A New Home for Social Justice

The building has four offices and three meeting areas where our staff and students work, learn and connect as a community.

Students working with the MRISJ as alternative break leaders, graduate assistants and justice fellows are able to work individually and collaboratively at flexible workstations.

In January 2023, we moved into a newly renovated building at 161 Summer Street, on the corner of Summer Street and Springhill Avenue.

We thank the leadership of the Bridgewater State University Foundation and BSU for their generosity and vision in providing us such a wonderful space.

The renovation preserved many of the beautiful historical features of the house while providing an updated, modern building for our campus community with an ADA accessible first floor.



These flexible meeting areas also served as the home of our new drop-in discussion series, *#TrendingTopics* this spring where the BSU community gathered to explore current social justice issues.

If you haven't visited us yet, please reach out, we look forward to welcoming you!



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Days of Service

The MRISJ hosts three annual days of service to bring the BSU community together through service and volunteerism. These events allow students to build community with their peers and encourage alumni to return to their BSU roots and foster an intergenerational network of Bears.

Bears Fighting Hunger

Every September, student and alumni Bears come together in honor of 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance. In 2022, 39 student, staff and alumni volunteers packed 25,000 meals at End Hunger New England's Pembroke location for people experiencing food insecurity. As our first service project of the year, this event introduced students to volunteerism and sparked a sense of community among peers through service.



Students prepare meals at End Hunger New England.

MLK Day of Service

In celebration of MLK Day of Service, 130 members of the extended BSU community kicked off the spring semester with our MLK Service Project; 83 BSU students, staff and faculty joined 47 BSU alumni and community members on campus.

Together, volunteers explored civic engagement, voter education, community building and food insecurity throughout the afternoon to support the Bridgewater Senior Center, Brockton Hospital, Father Bill's and MainSpring, Old Colony YMCA and School on Wheels of Massachusetts. They wrote postcards to local seniors, assembled DIY activities for youth, signed petitions, prepared bagged lunches, created no-sew fleece blankets and packed school supplies.

Earth Day

In celebration of Earth Day, 29 student and alumni volunteers came together once again at Sharing the Harvest community farm. Participants learned about food justice, planted produce, prepared the fields for harvest and took action to support people living in our region. Once harvested, all produce will be donated to local organizations supporting people facing food insecurity following the farm's mission.



Volunteers prepare the fields at Sharing the Harvest.

Local Service Projects

We also host several student-led service projects throughout the year for students with local community partners. These projects create community-building opportunities for students from all majors and provide an entry point for them to learn about social justice through direct service.

This year, we hosted a total of 56 students over eight local service projects with Old Colony YMCA and School on Wheels of Massachusetts. At Old Colony YMCA students learned about youth engagement while facilitating activities for youth waiting to be matched with an adult mentor through their mentoring program. Meanwhile, volunteers at School on Wheels packed backpacks to provide basic school supplies for K-12 students experiencing homelessness to help them succeed.

ALTERNATIVE BREAK

A New Era of Alternative Break

This year marked the exciting return of MRISJ's Alternative Break program re-envisioned to provide flexibility to students balancing multiple academic, personal and professional priorities. The Alternative Break program allows students to build their social justice knowledge and skills through civic engagement, direct service and critical reflection.

Over the course of four days, nine students participated in an immersive experience exploring social justice themes in the local communities of Attleboro and Taunton. The experience was led by two student team leaders and supported by a graduate assistant and MRISJ staff. Our community partner, Coalition for Social Justice, provided in-depth training to build a foundation of knowledge in advocacy, civic education and community leadership. Alternative Break was offered at no cost to eliminate financial barriers for student participants. All meals and transportation were provided by MRISJ.

Throughout the week, participants regularly reflected on their experiences as a group about discovering their identities as leaders, connecting what they learned to possible career paths, the power of using your own story as an advocacy tool, and developing a sense of community with their fellow participants. "Seeing students learn how to use their voice and advocate for issues that are important to them was the best part about working with them," said community partner Danielle St. Pierre, "students hold power and should use their voices to speak up about injustices in their communities."

Breaking it Down

Day One - Getting Started

The students prepared for a week of hands-on advocacy efforts with tailored trainings lead by the Coalition for Social Justice. These workshops taught students about phone banking, canvassing, identifying social issues and policies, why their voices are important and using storytelling as a tool to connect with community members and legislators.

Day Two - Alternative Break Hits the Road

Students put their skills to the test on a visit to the Massachusetts State House. In small groups, students met with legislators and advocated for social justice issues they were passionate about by sharing their own personal stories.

Day Three - Advocacy in Action

Participants knocked on doors, canvassed, and gathered signatures from Taunton residents in support of free public college with Coalition for Social Justice. Students shared information about the implementation of the Fair Share Amendment and the importance of funding for free public college.

Day Four - Connecting with Community

The group canvassed a neighborhood in Attleboro and distributed the Coalition for Social Justice's resource guide of services for Attleboro residents. This guide included information about mental health, housing, legal and nutrition services, LGBTQIA+ resources and much more as requested by community members.



Alternative Break participants pose in front of 161 Summer St. ahead of their State House visit.



Graduate Assistant Sarah M. is joined by Alternative Break participants Maggie and Joanne outside of a legislator's office.



JUSTICE FELLOWS

Justice Fellows

The MRISJ's Justice Fellow program offers a unique community-based learning opportunity to undergraduate students, pairing them with a nonprofit organization or campus initiative. Students engage in project-based work to develop skills and knowledge of different positive social change strategies.

Justice fellows are student employees paid by the MRISJ to work 10-hours per week. They engage in meaningful work around topics such as educational equity, youth development, and voter engagement through advocacy, community organizing, volunteerism and education. This past year, fellows worked with:

Community Partners

- ■ ▲ Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC), *Brockton*
- ■ ▲ ◆ Coalition for Social Justice Education Fund, *Attleboro and Taunton*
- Girls Inc. Taunton, *Taunton*
- ◆ Old Colony YMCA, *Brockton*
- ▲ ◆ Raising Multicultural Kids (RMK), *Easton*
- ◆ School on Wheels of Massachusetts, *Bridgewater*

Campus Initiatives

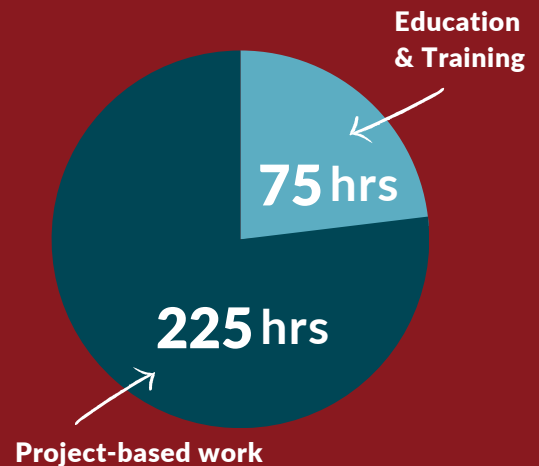
- ■ Advocacy
- ▲ Civic Engagement
- ■ ◆ Local Service Projects
- ▲ Native American and Indigenous Studies
- Social Justice Choir of Southeastern Massachusetts
- ▲ Supporting Our Souls

Key: ● Community Engagement ■ Civic Engagement ▲ Racial Justice ◆ Educational Equity

Education Hours and Project-Based Work

This year we hosted 26 fellows in the fall and 22 fellows in the spring semesters respectively. Through the justice fellows program, students have access to over 75 hours of social justice education and training on topics relevant to their work.

On average, justice fellows work 225 hours throughout the year on meaningful project-based work at a local nonprofit organization or on a campus initiative. This includes one-on-one meetings with their site supervisors, MRISJ advisor, monthly cohort meetings as well as additional professional development and trainings offered in collaboration with our campus partners at BSU.



Career Readiness

In addition to trainings and networking opportunities through MRISJ, we also connect justice fellows to additional opportunities through our divisional partners in the Career Services and Internship Office. This year students participated in an interactive Life Design Studio during the January intersession as well as a resume workshop during their monthly cohort meeting this spring. Students were also connected to MRISJ alumni pursuing social justice career paths during a special career panel this spring. We are excited to help our students kick-start their careers as part of the university's larger BSU Works initiative.

Life Design Studio

MRISJ and Internship Office staff collaborated to pilot an interactive, immersive Life Design Studio for justice fellows. The students were introduced to Life Design@BSU, a career- and life-focused design thinking methodology, adapted from Stanford University.

Over the course of two days, Career Services and Internship Office staff facilitated a series of exercises using a five-step process, in which participants took on the "wicked problems" of life and career exploration. Fellows assessed their personality, life balance and interests, created a mind map of their career and life vision, determined career-related questions to solve and brainstormed resolutions.

Since participating in the Studio, justice fellow Olivia has incorporated the mind map strategy into her work with community partner School on Wheels as a tool in individual mentoring which prompted the development of a digital resource binder. "I learned how to make smaller steps to get to my goals, leaving me feeling less overwhelmed about achieving [them]," said another fellow. Students were encouraged to connect with the Career Services and Internship Office following the studio for additional resources and support navigating career exploration.



Justice fellow Cali M. builds a mind map during Life Design

Student Spotlight - Meet Olivia!

Olivia, '23, joined the Justice Fellows program working with School on Wheels of Massachusetts. She worked with their youth tutoring program (PreK-12), Bridge mentoring program (high school & college), and behind-the-scenes on advocacy efforts with staff.

From developing educational tools and resources to representing School on Wheels, she gained first-hand advocacy experience. As a tutor for a young girl, she pushed through language barriers to provide math help and worked with School on Wheels staff and her school to develop strategies, tools and support systems to meet her everyday needs.

Accomplishments and Awards

In addition to their work as justice fellows, many of our students are leaders in other areas across campus. Please join us in celebrating a few notable accomplishments from this year.

- Carrie received a Bridgewater's Best Impact Award through the Center for Student Engagement.
- Emmalee, Gabby and Olivia were accepted to the Adrian Tinsley Program this summer through BSU's Undergraduate Research program.
- Carrie (2022-23) and Mitzy (2023-24) were selected as Newman Civic Fellows for BSU.
- Joanne received the Katerina Lamb Teaching Scholarship from Raising Multicultural Kids (RMK).
- Meredith and Tessa were accepted to master's programs and will return to BSU in the fall.



President Clark & Vice President Oravec present Carrie with a Bridgewater's Best Award at the Impact Awards.

LEADING THE CHARGE

Voter Education

The MRISJ promoted civic engagement across campus through a variety of events. Justice fellows hosted two voter registration drives and a *Get Out the Vote* voter education fair ahead of the 2022 Primary Elections in the fall. Fellows organized voter registration tables, voting trivia games, encouraged their peers to vote in upcoming elections and led interactive social media polls and quizzes to inspire civic interest and action. More than 70 students participated in person and online.

Folks can learn more about civic engagement initiatives on campus at BSU's civic engagement website (www.bridgew.edu/civic-engagement).



Left to Right: Justice fellows Angela G. and Meredith B. in University Park at the Get Out the Vote Fair.

Student Representation Across Campus

In addition to our events, students also represented MRISJ at events across campus to inform their peers on other voting issues. This year our students:

- Educated their peers on voting rights and accessibility at #BeSeen (Student Accessibility Services).
- Informed students on proposed bill HD.3420/S.2104 "An Act to Expand the Bottle Bill" which would increase recycling incentives and accessibility at the Earth Day Fair (Environmental Action Team; Sustainability Program).
- Distributed voting resource guides and encouraged graduating seniors to update their voter registration during Bristaco's Grad Party (Center for Student Engagement).

Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellowship

Each year BSU nominates one student to serve as a student leader on campus through the Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellowship. This program offers leadership opportunities, mentorship and connects the fellow to a network of student leaders from across the nation. BSU is able to host a fellow as a member institution of Campus Compact, a higher education association dedicated to civic and community engagement in higher education.

Our 2022-2023 Newman Civic Fellow, Carrie Provost, '23, represented BSU at the Newman Civic Fellow national convening where she connected with a network of student leaders from member institutions across the country. We look forward to welcoming Mitzy Duarte Chavarin, '24, as our 2023-2024 Newman Civic Fellow this fall.



Carrie Provost is joined by other Newman Civic Fellows at the national convening.

Civic Action Plan

BSU is a proud participant in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. This national effort empowers colleges and universities to achieve excellence in nonpartisan student democratic engagement. MRISJ coordinates the development and submission of our campus's Civic Action Plan, which describes BSU's strategies for achieving goals for student voter registration and student voter turnout. In fall 2022, BSU was one of 394 colleges and universities to earn the inaugural "ALL IN Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting" recognition.

Civic Speaker Series

The MRISJ's Civic Speaker Series brings students, staff, faculty, alumni and the greater Bridgewater community together to highlight civic leaders from across the world. This signature series features multiple speakers throughout the year and inspires attendees to spark conversation, share ideas, and act for social change, in line with our mission to advance social justice through individual and collective action.

This year our Civic Speaker Series featured a range of speakers covering topics including overcoming barriers to civic engagement, the various ways people can take action for social justice, and how reparations can facilitate a path toward justice.



Truth Tellers Showcase | September

Longtime artist and activist Robert Shetterly came to campus for a series of events connected to the documentary film *Truth Tellers*. Our showcase featured a month-long exhibit of 12 portraits of activists as well as several classroom discussions, a documentary film screening, Q&A, and a “meet the artist” reception on International Day of Peace.

Yes, the System is Broken. It Still Needs You Anyway | November

MRISJ advisory board member and nonprofit leader J. Cottle facilitated a workshop to explore the systemic, social and personal barriers to civic engagement. A total of 29 students, faculty, staff and community members joined us to reflect on their relationship to the “duty” of citizenship. Carrie Provost (Justice Fellow, Newman Civic Fellow) facilitated the Q&A to close the session.

Taking Action for Social Justice | January

Community activist, author and social worker Feminista Jones joined us for a special MLK edition of our Civic Speaker Series. Jones spoke about various ways people can take action to create change and mobilize their community for 91 attendees. Dr. Maura Rosenthal (Health and Kinesiology) moderated a discussion of intersectional feminism, queer identity, social media as a tool for community organizing, the ways Black women lead cultural and societal change, and the importance of providing mental health support for students of color.

Repairing Historical Harm: A Conversation on Reparations | April

Kyle Bennett and Dwayne Keys of the Providence Municipal Reparations Commission joined us for an important presentation and conversation on reparations. They shared how the commission’s work engaged the community and made recommendations that close racial wealth and equity gaps in Rhode Island with 56 attendees. Dr. Emily Field (English) set the scene with a historical contextualization of reparations in the 19th century and Dr. Kevin McGowan (Elementary and Early Childhood Education) facilitated the Q&A. This event demonstrated various forms of reparations, how they can work, and how citizen groups can work through these complex decisions.



Truth Tellers Showcase

In September, as part of Bridgewater’s Peace Week events, the MRISJ hosted a multi-event *Truth Tellers* Showcase with Robert Shetterly, a longtime artist and activist from Maine. The showcase included three classroom sessions, a film screening and discussion of the *Truth Tellers* documentary, a “meet the artist” reception and a month-long art exhibit of his work in Maxwell Library.

Truth Tellers is a documentary exploring the intersection of racial equity, climate justice and Indigenous rights through Shetterly’s eyes. The film stresses the urgency of coming together to confront these issues through profiles of dozens of activists who are working on Indigenous rights, racial justice, environmental justice, whistleblowers, and peace activists of all ages, backgrounds, and ways of working.

‘Portraits of Social Justice’ Exhibit

In collaboration with BSU’s Arts and Exhibits department, MRISJ curated 12 of Shetterly’s portraits of social justice (<https://americanswhotellthetruth.org/portrait-gallery/>) for an exhibit in Maxwell Library. The selected portraits highlighted a wide cross-section of intergenerational activists including: Esther Attean, Ella Baker, James Bell, Richard Bowen, Zyahanna Bryant, Peter Kellman, Chloe Maxmin, Bree Newsome, Bryan Stevenson, Kim Wasserman, Lili Yeh and Dave Zirin.



A student views the *Portraits of Social Justice* exhibit in Maxwell Library

Speaking with Students

Faculty were invited to sign up for one of our invitation-only classroom sessions during which students had the opportunity to hear from Robert Shetterly and participate in a Q&A to learn more about the activists in his portraits. Seven faculty members and 118 students from nine classes joined us across three classroom sessions. Shetterly highlighted activists working toward racial justice, peace and women’s rights.

During those sessions and assignments that followed, students reflected on connections between social justice and their courses in English, special education, history, political science, public administration and sheltered English immersion.



Students, faculty, staff and community members gather for a Q&A with Robert Shetterly.

Film Screening and Q&A

Eighty-six students, faculty, staff and community members joined us on-campus or on-screen via Zoom for an exclusive screening of the *Truth Tellers* documentary. Participants were welcomed for a post-film Q&A with the artist Robert Shetterly where they learned more about his art, how he selected the activists to paint, how he uses art as a platform for activism and much more.

“Meet the Artist” Reception

Guests were invited to gather following the screening for a reception where students, faculty, staff and community members mingled with our guest and each other over light refreshments. This provided a unique opportunity for guests from all backgrounds to reflect on their takeaways from the film and build connections across disciplines.



Robert Shetterly connects with a student at the reception.

SPARKING CONVERSATION

Students Take the Lead

Ask Big Questions

Where do you feel at home? When do you take a stand? How do we disagree? These are just a few of the prompting questions we asked the BSU community this year through our *Ask Big Questions* series.

Launched during Welcome Week with the first of six installments, this series posed a different “big” question to the BSU Community each month to spark critical thinking and reflection. Folks across campus shared anonymous responses throughout the month to provoke thoughtful consideration of different perspectives. Justice fellows developed a conversation guide and used these responses to facilitate end of month discussions with support from MRISJ staff.

Get Moved: A Social Justice Film Series

Our *Get Moved* film series returned this spring to raise awareness and discussion through film about important social justice topics impacting the world today. Led by justice fellows, we featured screenings of *Racially Charged: America's Misdemeanor Problem* and *Where Justice Ends*, each paired with an open discussion led by a justice fellow. MRISJ faculty associate, Dr. Luzi Shi (Criminal Justice), and Carolyn Taggart, director of BSU's GLBTA Pride Center, joined the conversation to share insight as subject experts. This year's films explored criminal justice reform, transgender rights and racial justice among other important topics.



#TrendingTopics

The BSU community joined us at our new home this spring for a new drop-in discussion series *#TrendingTopics: Social Justice Today*. Dr. Kevin McGowan (Elementary and Early Childhood Education) facilitated bi-weekly conversations as students, faculty and staff gathered to explore social justice topics inspired by current events and trending news.

Throughout the semester we touched on a variety of topics and their connection to social justice including media literacy, equal pay, social justice and sports, mental health, representation in film, how social media can be a platform to advocate for social justice and much more.

Amplifying Alumni

I Am You Film Screening and Discussion

MRISJ welcomed Noubé Rateau, '10, back to campus for a special screening of his film *I Am You: Immigration in America*. Rateau's film highlighted the diversity of the immigrant experience through the stories of several people living in the Brockton area. Through this storytelling, he examined the direct and indirect impacts of being an undocumented immigrant on individuals, their families and our communities.

Following the film, Rateau was joined by the documentary's subjects for a compelling panel discussion and Q&A.



Three of the film's subjects participate in a Q&A panel moderated by BSU alumnus and film director Noubé Rateau following the film screening.

FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

Collaborating with Faculty Associates

Faculty are a part of the MRISJ in many important ways. As MRISJ Academic Director, Dr. Kevin McGowan consults with faculty about how to include social justice concepts and approaches into their courses, scholarship and departmental work. The MRISJ also has two faculty associates, Dr. Fernanda Ferreira (Global Languages and Literatures) and Dr. Luzi Shi (Criminal Justice), who work alongside MRISJ staff to ensure that programs and partnerships benefit from faculty expertise and foster connections and collaborations with academic departments and programs of study. Faculty associates serve as a primary voice for faculty and librarians as the MRISJ plans and delivers programs and events.

This year our faculty partners:

- Collaborated with MRISJ staff to plan and lead the 2023 MRISJ Summer Faculty Institute on Decoloniality
- Reviewed the 2023 MRISJ Summer Faculty Mini-Grant applications and selected recipients
- Developed and led learning opportunities in key areas
- Partnered with justice fellows as subject experts to inform conversation for our *Get Moved: A Social Justice Film Series* events
- Led our bi-weekly #TrendingTopics discussion series

Social Justice in the Classroom

To highlight and promote academic courses for students interested in learning about social justice, the MRISJ compiles and widely distributes a list of courses with a social justice focus every fall and spring semester. Over the past seven semesters, MRISJ has identified 1,508 sections of courses with social justice content, including 258 sections in fall 2022 and 219 sections in the spring 2023 semester.

Faculty Institute

MRISJ offers an annual institute for faculty to support their professional development and lifelong learning to incorporate social justice in their multifaceted work at BSU.

Our 2023 faculty institute, *Decoloniality in Teaching, Scholarship and Service* featured Dr. Leigh Patel, author of *No Study Without Struggle: Confronting Settler Colonialism in Higher Education*. Decoloniality seeks to rediscover, revalidate, and restore Indigenous knowledge, cultural values, social and economic structures that have been displaced or suppressed by settler colonialism, and to decenter or dismantle dominant colonial attitudes and power structures.

We had our largest registration yet, with 27 full-time faculty, 8 part-time faculty, and 2 librarians attending, from 20 different academic departments. Dr. Patel led faculty in thought-provoking conversations about how to learn about decoloniality, identify relevant applications to their disciplines, and consider ways they might want to incorporate it in their teaching through their syllabi, classroom resources and pedagogical approaches.

"I liked how the breakout sessions...were first random and then by discipline; that was a nice way to...learn from one another and also strategize with faculty with whom we are most likely to collaborate," said one participant.



Screenshot from Zoom of summer faculty institute participants.

Faculty Mini-Grants

The MRISJ awards small monetary grants ranging from \$500-\$1,500 to part-time and full-time faculty members at BSU. Grants are awarded to faculty for their original research, teaching projects such as creating a new course or updating an existing course, community-engaged projects, and purchasing educational resources.

All projects must be related to social justice. Those that address civic engagement and racial justice, focus on BSU's connection to Bridgewater and Gateway Cities, or are interdisciplinary and collaborative are given priority.

The MRISJ awarded funding to 20 BSU full- and part-time faculty members to support 18 projects during summer 2023. We supported nine teaching projects, four research projects, three community-engaged projects and two resource acquisition grants.

Mini-Grant Highlights

- Dr. Christina Hodel (Communication Studies) studied different lighting and camera practices to understand how to better represent the unique characteristics and qualities of human skin tones. Dr. Hodel filmed 138 color cards using three types of cameras and determined that current camera technology should calibrate for a range of 46 and 69 different skin tones.
- Three faculty members in BSU's Music Department received mini-grants. Dr. Spencer Aston hosted a community recital of works by underrepresented composers in Brockton. Dr. John 'Bebo' Shiu created a brand new course titled *Music of Black Americans*. Lastly, Dr. Deborah Nemko updated three music performance studies courses to include a community engagement component in which students perform solo and ensemble works by women of color for local area organizations.
- BSU's Education faculty members created new courses titled *Lived Experiences of Immigrants in the Southeastern MA Region* (Dr. Anne Hird and Dr. Sarah Thomas) and *Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Multilingual Learners* (Dr. Yulia Stakhnevich). Others prepared research articles about effective diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) trainings (Dr. Melissa Winchell) and on the results of a week-long study tour to the Dominican Republic on BSU teacher candidates' culturally sustaining and anti-bias/anti-racist pedagogy (Dr. Emily Spitzman and Dr. Sarah Thomas).
- In connection with Bridgewater's One Book One Community committee, BSU Theatre Department part-time faculty member Lisa Troy worked with two BSU theatre students to produce a Readers Theater script based on the book *You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey - Crazy Stories About Racism*, by Lacey Lamar and Amber Ruffin. This is a theater style in which the actors present dramatic readings of narrative material without staging or physical movement. More than 70 people attended the event, and a campus presentation during the upcoming academic year is being planned.



Unify America Challenge

The MRISJ collaborated with BSU's Bartlett Chair in Free Speech and Expression, Dr. Aeon Skoble, and the Bartlett Endowed Professor of Civic Education and Engagement, Dr. Jo Hoffman, to encourage BSU faculty and their classes to participate in the Spring 2023 Unify Challenge College Bowl with Unify America.

Unify America is a nationwide project in which students are matched with other students from different backgrounds, different parts of the country and different political views to have a guided conversation via Zoom.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Martin Richard Fellow Scholarship

Bill and Denise Richard, both members of the class of '93, have established the Martin Richard Fellow Scholarship in memory of their youngest son, Martin. As champions of Martin's legacy and of social justice, the Richards created this scholarship as a pathway for students to graduate with their bachelor's degree debt-free, while helping them to do good work.

One student is selected annually and will be awarded \$25,000 per year for up to four years (\$100,000 total) at BSU, which includes the cost of tuition, fees, housing, a meal plan, technology and supplies. Awarded for the first time in 2022, the year in which Martin would have graduated, we welcomed Tyeisha Gilchrist to BSU as the inaugural recipient.

The scholarship connects two institutions of significance to the Richard family - Dorchester's Neighborhood House Charter School, where Martin attended school, and Bridgewater State University, their alma mater. Bill and Denise Richard met at BSU and credit their experience here as being key to their identity as engaged community members. All scholarship awardees will serve as justice fellows with the MRISJ. As part of their scholarship, the MRISJ also provides them with an annual stipend for their work on campus and in the community. We are honored to support the students and the vision of the Richard family in this way.



American Red Cross Blood Drives at BSU

In partnership with the American Red Cross, MRISJ and the Honors Program hosted two community blood drives on BSU's campus. Ninety-four members of the BSU and local communities showed up to donate blood, including 34 first-time blood donors. A total of 83 units collected between both drives and used to save lives across the region.

Sickle cell disease disproportionately affects people of African descent, increasing the need for a diverse group of blood donors. During Black History Month in February, we joined the American Red Cross to promote the need for a diverse group of blood donors and the importance of blood transfusions for sickle cell patients. Leading up to the drive, our social media accounts featured an awareness campaign and our justice fellows created educational materials to share with blood donors.

Other Partnerships

Community Partners

- American Red Cross
- Bridgewater Senior Center Pen Pal Program
- Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights
- Brockton Interfaith Community
- Coalition for Social Justice
- Girls' Inc. of Taunton
- Groundwork Southcoast
- Neighborhood House Charter School
- International Cities of Peace
- Jumpstart
- Old Colony YMCA
- Raising Multicultural Kids
- School on Wheels

Campus Collaborators

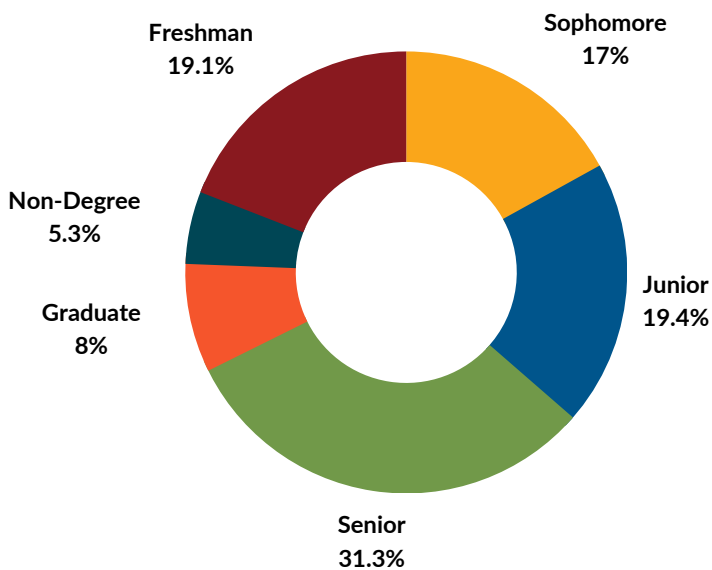
- Alumni and Development
- Center for Student Engagement
- Career Services and Internship Office
- EXCEL Program
- GLBTA Pride Center
- Honors Program
- Lewis and Gaines Center for Inclusion and Equity
- Library Services
- Minnock Institute for Global Engagement
- Native American and Indigenous Studies
- Social Justice Choir of Southeastern Massachusetts
- Student Accessibility Services
- Wellness Center

FACTS & FIGURES

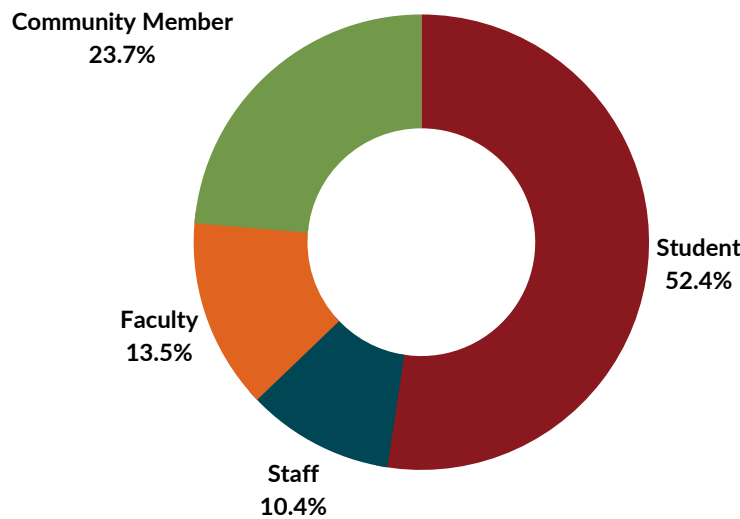
During academic year 2022-2023, the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice welcomed 1,111 students, faculty, staff, and community members across all of our events and other engagement opportunities. Many folks joined us for multiple events throughout the year, with a total of 745 unique participants connecting with the MRISJ. We offered 48 engagement opportunities including service projects, educational events and cohort-based programs. Cohorts included our justice fellows, alternative break participants and an intergenerational pen pal program offered in collaboration with the Bridgewater Senior Center.

Faculty and students from across the university joined MRISJ highlighting the interdisciplinary interest in and commitment to social justice within the BSU community. We look forward to continuing our work to advance social justice and empower individuals to take action in their communities.

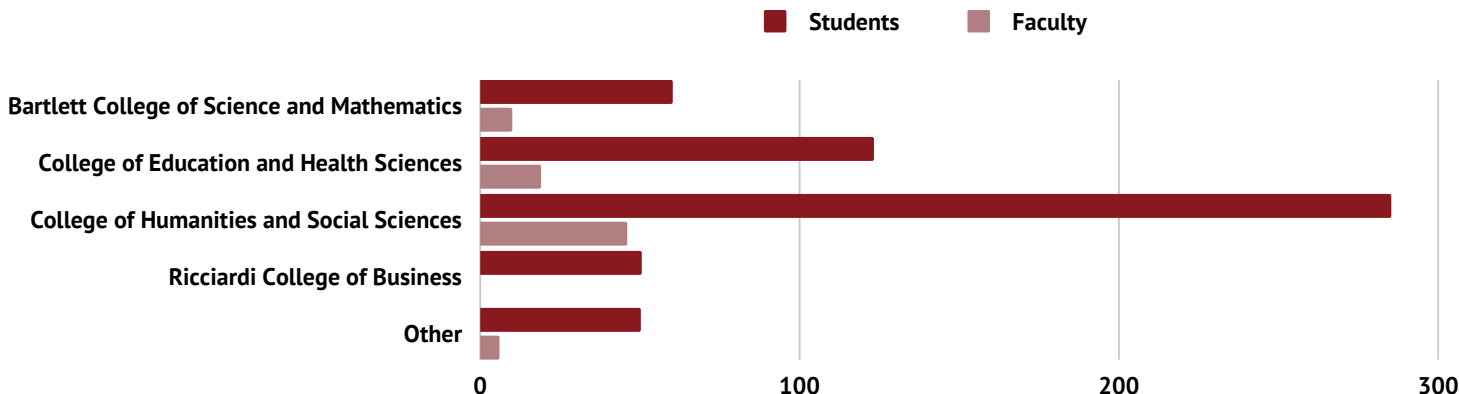
Student Participation by Class Year



Participation by Affiliation



Participation by College Affiliation





THE MARTIN RICHARD
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