



## QUINCY'S EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL PATHWAY

Quincy's Early College High School (ECHS) Pathway is a cohort-based program that provides students the opportunity to earn up to 22 college credits while still in high school, at no cost to families. ECHS students receive robust academic support during their ECHS experience that will better position them to be successful in college and their future career. ECHS begins in grade 10.

The program is made possible by the partnership between Quincy College, Quincy Public Schools, State Street Foundation, and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

### ECHS SUMMER ACADEMY

Quincy's ECHS Pathway will once again be offering college level courses for high school students this summer at Quincy College. Stay tuned for details!

### EARLY COLLEGE IN THE NEWS

Click [here](#) to read the opinion piece, "Early College Is the Equalizer We Need," that appeared in *The New York Times* in November.



## QUINCY'S ECHS PATHWAY HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

On Feb. 9, over 200 students, along with QPS staff, partners, and community and state officials gathered for Quincy's Early College High School Pathway's 3rd Annual Symposium. Guest speakers included: Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch (above left); House Speaker Ronald Mariano; MA Secretary of Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler; Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Jeffrey Riley; President of State Street Foundation Joan Christel; Kevin Mulvey, Superintendent of Schools; and Stacy Costello from RTI International who moderated the student panel.

Dr. Rick DeCristofaro (right), President of Quincy College, pledged one year of free tuition to any QPS ECHS senior who matriculates to Quincy College, continuing the tradition for the third year in a row. **ECHS seniors who are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should contact the ECHS College Transition Coach at their school.**



Special thanks goes to Skyline Cardoso-Mendes (NQHS '24, above right) for emceeding the event and to Shaelyn Clark (NQHS '23), Kody DeJesus (NQHS '24), Ava Hawco (NQHS '24), Alexandria Monteiro (QHS '23), Sebastian Phan (QHS '24) and Shiyanna Robinson-Moore (QHS '24) for their insightful contributions to the panel discussion on ECHS students' perspectives. Please click [here](#) to view photos from the Symposium.



BHM means *embracing* my culture, understanding my history and staying true to everything related to the Black experience. It's an *opportunity* to celebrate those before me that made a positive impact on society by using their voices to make a difference.

— Eli Stewart

*Early College High School College Transition Coach*



## CORDIS COMES TO QUINCY

On October 27, Quincy's ECHS Pathway hosted Cordis, a nationally touring world music ensemble, for a performance at both high schools. The ensemble played their own compositions which were written by different members of the group. The group's founder, Dr. Richard Grimes (below left), not only plays the cimbalom in Cordis, but is also a Quincy College professor for Quincy's ECHS Pathway. After each performance, the 10th grade ECHS students completed a workshop with the ensemble and had an opportunity to learn about, hear, and play the different instruments used in the performance. Many thanks to ECHS teacher Ms. Compitiello for organizing the visit. To view more photos from the event, please click [here](#).



## Christopher Pham

ECHS PATHWAY STUDENT at NQHS

Grade 12

### What is your favorite memory from Quincy's ECHS Pathway?

My favorite memory from the ECHS program would probably be the summer Pre-Calculus class I took as part of the ECHS Summer Academy. I was introduced to a teacher, Ms. Petcosky, who genuinely cares for the students and has a great amount of energy and enthusiasm.

### What is your greatest strength?

I would say my greatest strength would be my leadership skills and this can be seen from my outstanding commitment to keep my group or team motivated.

### What do you hope to do after high school?

My plans after high school are to attend the University of Massachusetts Lowell; majoring in Computer Engineering and enlisting in the Massachusetts Air National Guard.



## DESE CELEBRATES EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM WITH STATEWIDE STUDENT SUMMIT

On Jan. 12, nine ECHS students from NQHS and QHS, along with ECHS staff, attended the statewide “Take-Off Student Summit: Your Flight to a Bright Future” hosted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) at Worcester State University. Nearly 500 students and adults from Early College programs across the state learned how students can soar beyond the boundaries of a traditional high school education and prepare for their futures.



## TEACHER'S TIP

### BRIANNA O'KEEFE

Bachelor's in Social Studies Secondary Education from Hofstra University

Five years teaching Social Studies at QHS

ECHS Course: US History II

“My love of history started because of my father’s love for the subject, but it was a series of awesome teachers that inspired me to consider a teaching career. When I started my undergraduate degree I considered other options at first but ultimately realized that teaching history was my passion. I have loved every minute of working with the students at Quincy High and can’t imagine wanting to do anything else. Outside of school I love to read, golf and hike with my dog Alfie. *My advice to students is to enjoy the present, embrace change, and challenge yourself.*”



Ms. O'Keefe with Alfie and her partner Kyle.

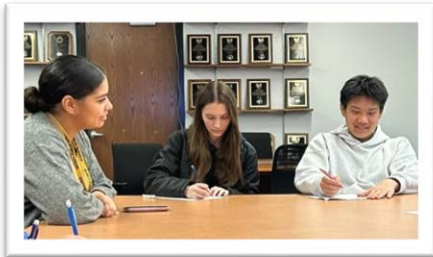
## QUINCY'S ECHS PATHWAY IS EXPANDING



Beginning in September, Quincy’s ECHS Pathway is expanding to include **grade 9 students** in the program. Grade 9 ECHS students will be enrolled in Introduction to ECHS in the fall (2.5 high school credits) and Introduction to Computers (5 high school credits, 3 college credits) in the spring. Interested students must complete the ECHS grade 9 application ([click here for application](#)) by April 12, 2024. Seats are limited to 24 students per high school and students will be accepted on a first come, first served basis for those meeting Quincy's ECHS Pathway Admissions criteria.

## ECHS STUDENTS SET UP FOR SUCCESS

This year we've had the pleasure of adding Academic Coaches Amalia Torres (NQHS, below left) and Mackenzie Mason (QHS, bottom right) to the ECHS team. Our coaches are here to support our ECHS students in their English and Humanities studies and provide them with necessary college readiness skills for their academic careers. These skills include how to write



and structure a strong paper, develop solid study skills, improve time management and more.

At both QHS and NQHS, the grade 11 students

will be taking the College Board Accuplacer College Placement Test as a new initiative for the ECHS program. The purpose of administering the Accuplacer to our junior cohort is to gauge their readiness for college level classes. The test is a requirement of most institutions, and the results from the assessment will allow ECHS staff to understand the current academic level in relation to college and how we can best support students to succeed in future college level courses, along with elevating their academic performance.

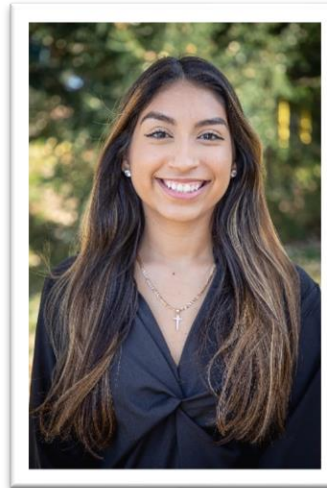
NQHS students did a fantastic job at finishing their assessments earlier this month. Grade 11 ECHS students at QHS are scheduled to take the Accuplacer on April 4<sup>th</sup>.



Several ECHS Students at NQHS helped prepare for Lunar New Year by making decorations and participating in activities. Lunar New Year, which is celebrated in many countries across Asia and around the world, began Feb. 10. This year the holiday, which always falls on the second new moon after the winter solstice, marks the Year of the Dragon.



## QUINCY COLLEGE CORNER



### IRENE CELAYA

**Siena College:** B.A. in Communications/ Digital Marketing

**Content Creator Specialist** in the marketing department at Quincy College

### DESCRIPTION OF YOUR JOB

I produce and optimize content on an ongoing basis to support and promote the college, and attract site visitors through social media and other digital and traditional channels. My responsibilities also include motorizing social media platforms, analysis, content creation and marketing strategies. I also cover sporting events, graduation ceremonies, open houses and other special events that the college hosts.

### ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

Surround yourself with people that encourage you to be the best version of yourself.

### ONE APP YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

Tik Tok

### MOST INTERESTING PLACE YOU'VE TRAVELED

Italy! I studied abroad in Italy and traveled to Rome, Florence and Siena

## PARENT ADVISORY TEAM



The Parent Advisory Team hosted its first event on Jan. 16 regarding financial aid for college and how to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application. To view the presentation please click [here](#). **If you would like to become involved with the ECHS Parent Advisory Team please contact [Eli Stewart](#), ECHS College Transition Coach, at Quincy High School.** This initiative aims to connect parents of current and prospective ECHS Pathway students, make program recommendations and coordinate events with ECHS Pathway staff members. The group meets four times per year at Quincy College and via Zoom.

**The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 25 at 4:00 PM.**

## GRADE 12 ECHS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROJECTS



On December 1, grade 12 ECHS students from NQHS and QHS participated in the second of four full-day visitations to the Quincy College campus. Their afternoon was dedicated to participating in one of the following community awareness activities:

- Preparing lunches for Father Bill's & Mainspring;
- Creating greeting cards for the Salvation Army to distribute to nursing home residents; and
- Participating in a presentation by D.O.V.E related to dating and relationships focusing on empowering students to become leaders and agents for change in their communities.

In addition, students worked in groups to develop their own proposals for a service project they will implement in the community. Once proposals have been presented and submitted, Appointed to Lead will provide funding for the required supplies. Students will implement their projects and present a reflection of what they learned from their service project during their final visit to Quincy College on April 26.

The schedule for the remaining grade 12 Quincy College visitations is as follows:

- Friday, March 1, 2024
- Friday, April 26, 2024



## CONTACT US

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