



COF Student Programming Boards attend the NACA (National Association for Campus Activities) Northeast Conference together

Colleges of the Fenway

Annual Report 2015-2016

Colleges of the Fenway is a collaborative effort of six neighboring Boston-based colleges in the Fenway area. This collaboration was created to add value to student academic and social life while seeking innovative methods of investing in new services and containing the costs of higher education.



Reflections on the Year



Claire Ramsbottom
Executive Director

As you read this annual report, we are in the midst of marking the 20th Anniversary of Colleges of the Fenway with both assessment and planning. While all the ongoing programs moved ahead with continued engagement and vigor, much of the year was spent developing and then administering a student survey to assess the impact that Colleges of the Fenway is having on the lives of students. With over 2,300 students responding to the survey, we have been pouring over both the hard data and the more than 4,100 comments students shared in open-ended responses. One message stands out loud and clear – COF is an important factor for more than 50% of the students who are choosing to attend these six institutions.

While the student survey was being administered, the COF staff and Coordinating Council worked with consultants from Collective Next to identify strategic focus areas for COF's next five years. As we work through prioritizing the specific initiatives that will become our work plan, we look forward to helping each of the six colleges continue to be the higher education institutions of choice for the more than 21,000 students who are part of our "Six Colleges-One Community" neighborhood.

COF was pleased to receive one of the Davis Educational Foundations Presidential Grants, which was used to develop and offer our first Faculty Leadership Institute on College Financials. In addition, we are moving ahead with a Bettering Learner Engagement Study (B.L.E.S.), led by the Academic Technology Committee and funded by the open Fidelity Non-Profit Management grant that supported learning management systems across the colleges; this phase of work researches and assesses how these learning technology tools are enhancing learning for our students.

One of the most rewarding aspects of working for COF is the many ways we get to work with our colleagues at the colleges to keep strengthening their work and impact.

COF Inc. 2015-2016 Highlights

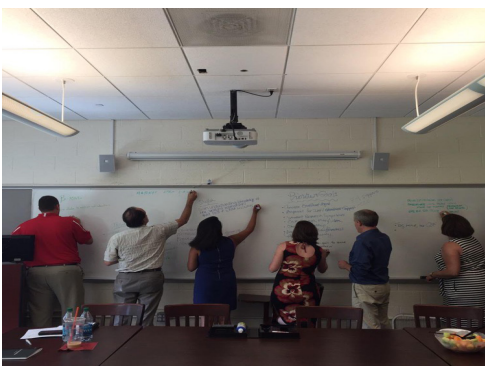
Marked the 20th Anniversary of COF on March 29, 2016



Executive Director hosted a Brazilian delegation interested in developing a consortium



COF featured in *Inside Higher Ed* and *University Business* publications



COF staffed tables/panels at 42 Open Houses, Accepted Student Days, and Orientations



Onboarded 16 new staff and faculty at the member institutions



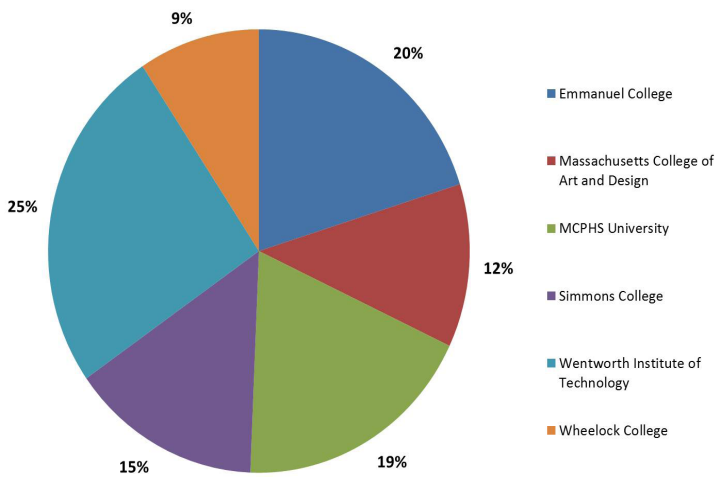
Executive Director and GEO Center Director co-authored chapter in the book "*Pushing the Boundaries of Collaboration: What Consortia Can Accomplish*"

COF Student Survey Spring 2016

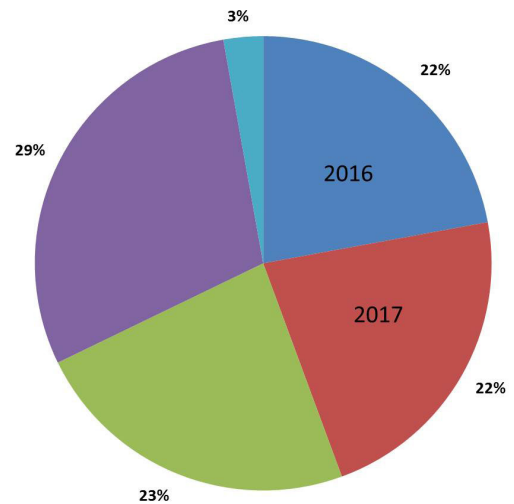
In 2015-2016 the Student Experience Task Force was charged by the Presidents and Coordinating Council to develop and implement a plan for assessing the student experience of COF. Specifically, the question to be answered about students was: What impact has the COF had on the totality of their student experience?

The COF Student Survey was launched in January 2016, receiving 2,342 responses.

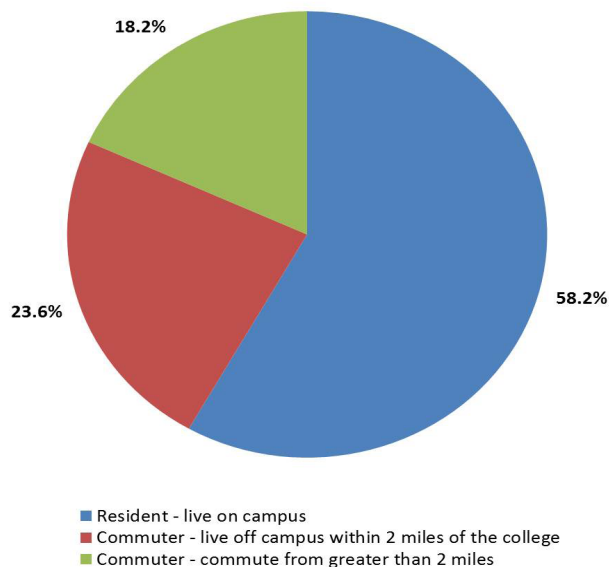
Which COF institution do you attend? N=2,342



Graduation Year
N=2342



Are you a resident or commuter student?
N=1973



What We Learned

47% of all students and 56% of first-year students said COF had an impact on their decision to attend their institution

84% of students who cross-registered are satisfied with the courses they take

While cross-registration is identified as one of the important factors; class schedules and majors can make it difficult

COF needs to provide more information to students and advisors about cross-registration and the process needs to be easier

52% of respondents have attended an event on another COF campus

45% have felt part of a larger community due to the COF partnership. We found a significant positive correlation exists between attending COF events and feeling part of a larger community

Commuters are less likely to participate in COF programs and events

Increase communication about programs and opportunities available to COF students

Students want more access to facilities, clubs, and organizations across the COF

Top Impact Areas

20%

Academics /
Cross-Registration

Co-curricular
Involvement

17%

15%

Community /
Making Friends

Resources /
Access

14%

"I created an Individualized Major. I have cross-registered at Wheelock, Simmons, and MCPHS to fulfill the requirements of my degree. I don't have peers in my field of study, but the COF has connected me to students who share my interests. Also, the Environmental Forum course has been outstanding. It led me to a research position with a teacher outside of my home institution." - Emmanuel student

"Having schools such as MassArt and MCPHS in the COF with specializations means they host speakers Emmanuel doesn't but I am still able to attend." - Emmanuel student

"Intramurals are a fun way to get involved outside of the "art school" community where a lot of the activities are geared towards "art" (which isn't a negative!). And the ability to cross-register is a nice way to branch out." - MassArt student

"Cross-registration is extremely convenient and useful, but the dining halls should be accessible to all colleges of the Fenway." - MassArt student

"The opportunity to socialize with a variety of students from separate colleges all majoring in different programs is really amazing. Sometimes, at dinner time in the MassArt cafeteria there are a mix of MassArt, MCPHS, and Wentworth students mingling and sharing their unique experiences from their different schools with each other and it creates a nice and refreshing atmosphere because you are not stuck with just students from your school or just students who are passionate about the same things you are; there is a huge pool to choose from when choosing friends." - MCPHS student

"As a student of MCPHS I am able to take classes at any COF school that may not be offered at my college. I am also able to share their facilities like the gym and cafeterias and student spaces. COF has really enhanced my college experience because I feel like I belong to a number of colleges rather than just one. I have met many people through COF activities like the intramural sports and activities. My favorite COF event is the COF block party that happens at the start of every school year." - MCPHS student

“When I applied, I loved the idea of being able to take classes at the other schools in the COF. I have taken just one so far but it was an amazing experience and I will definitely try to take other courses at the schools!” - Simmons student

*The partnership has been beneficial for me because it has allowed me to take advantage of intramural sports and get to know students from neighboring universities. I also have enjoyed getting to know students from other colleges who are enrolled in Simmons’ courses.”
- Simmons student*

*“Overall Positive. I met students from other COF schools at COF events like the block party. I’m currently part of a club and we are looking to expand to the entire COF.”
- Wentworth student*

*“Being able to casually associate with other students of other colleges has allowed me to expand my social horizons. I feel that if I had gone anywhere else for college, I would not have had nearly as many social connections as I have had here at Wentworth and the COF. Outside of social interaction, I can also get outside views on my projects and get a different perspective on certain situations. For example, just last week, I asked a MassArt student for his advice on my Civil Engineering project. I am extremely satisfied with what has happened in the COF for me so far. On top of that, I’m only in my Spring semester of my Freshman year!”
- Wentworth student*

“With Emmanuel’s art therapy certificate program, I get to explore something I am interested in that my college does not have while still earning the degree I came here for.” - Wheelock student

“Having the option to take classes at the other schools has made me feel like I have no limit of options for classes to take. There are so many classes I would love to take! Having the chance to be in the COF choir has been amazing for me throughout my time at school and has given me time for myself as well as introduced me to some of the people that became my best friends at college!” - Wheelock student



Fall 2015 Co-Rec Flag Football Champions (Emmanuel, Simmons, Wentworth, and Wheelock students)

Student Impact



ACTIVITIES & RES LIFE

Over **1,500** students attended the COF Block Party and over **800** attended the COF After Party

50 Programming Board students attended the NACA Conference

Hosted **7** Welcome Receptions, including new event for Student Veterans

194 students participated in 2nd Annual COF Campus Movie Fest

Over **120** RAs participated in viewing of "The Hunting Ground" documentary

Over **100** students participated in the annual COF RA Conference

Over **60** students attended the Annual COF Thanksgiving Dinner



INTRAMURALS

3,100 program participants, an increase of **5%** from FY15

Developed **gender neutral** policy to encourage student participation for all identities

Surpassed **31,500** pounds of food donated to the Greater Boston Food Bank as part of the **10th** Annual Turkey Trot

Employed **20** student staff members, the largest in program history

Hosted **8th** Annual Great Race Boston, a city-wide scavenger hunt



PERFORMING ARTS

395 program participants


Participation grew by **11%**

Audience attendance grew by **37%**

10th anniversary of COF Dance Project, including an **alumni** reception and performance

Expanded **cultural** offerings of dance to include Afro-Contemporary and Traditional West African

"The COF Dance Project helped me find a part of myself I had forgotten."



"I am legally blind but have never once experienced a teacher who assumed that I can't. I am always being encouraged to push further, dance harder, and expect nothing but the best from myself. Here, I am just a dancer."

"The Dance Project has allowed me to grow and connect with other creative individuals and have something to look forward to even on the hardest of weeks."

"Although social work is my professional passion, I have every intention of pursuing dance for the rest of my life."

Micaela "Mikey" Shutt, Wheelock College '17

Cross-Registration

Enhancing the student academic experience



773 students cross-registered in 2015-2016

The hallmark of the six-college consortium, cross-registration enables students to take courses that may not be offered at their home institution, in addition to the chance to create unique academic minors. More than 2,000 cross-registration courses are available, and since the consortium's inception, hundreds of COF members cross-register each year.

Positive feedback from Spring 2016 Student Survey

"I love the ability to cross-register. It allowed me to expand my course load to further enhance my future."

"It was a simple process and an interesting experience."

"I was satisfied with all the courses that I have taken. All the professors were welcoming and understanding."

"Being able to cross-register and take out books from other libraries really facilitates my access to resources and expands my choices."

Shared Services

Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S)

2015-2016 Highlights Include:

Shared position supporting Emmanuel, Simmons, and Wentworth

Developed and conducted 36 EH&S training sessions including the development of an online EH&S training program on Emmanuel's eLearning platform

Passed four Boston Fire Department (BFD) inspections for research laboratories and a biodiesel laboratory at Wentworth

Inspected 14 departments for EH&S compliance and recommended areas for improvement

Prepared and submitted all regulatory submissions by the corresponding deadlines

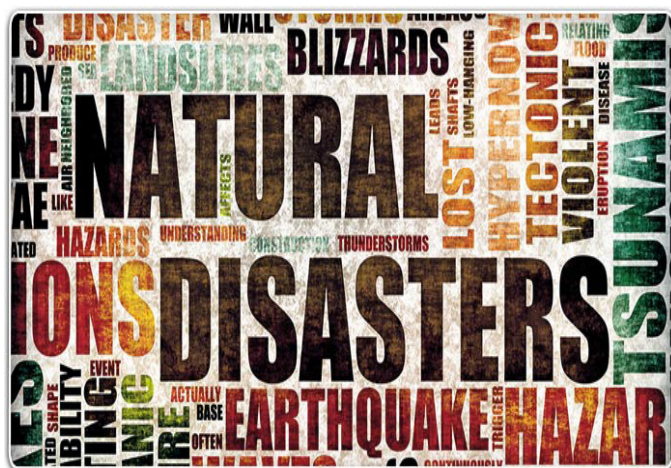
Implementation of MSDS Online, an online chemical inventory/safety data sheet database



Training for Emmanuel College Summer Research Students

“Thank you for your help making our labs safer for our students and staff.”

Emergency Preparedness



2015-2016 Highlights Include:

Shared position supporting all six institutions

Developed and trained over 70 staff and faculty throughout the COF on Incident Command

Provided guidance to colleges for the city of Boston flood mitigation project

In conjunction with MASCO, assisted in development and coordination of an LMA-wide emergency table top exercise for 110 participants

Center for Sustainability and The Environment

Expanding collaborative opportunities for students and faculty

The Colleges of the Fenway Center for Sustainability and the Environment is a collaboration of faculty, staff and students from the six member colleges working together to enhance understanding of the complex issues of sustainability as they relate to natural resources and the environment. The mission of the Center for Sustainability and the Environment is to engage and support faculty and students in all aspects of sustainability and environmental issues by providing resources and activities focused on education, scholarship, and service to the community.

2015-2016 Center Highlights

Over **930** students participated in **11** Center programs and events

MassArt approved COF Minor in Sustainability

18 students teams submitted proposals for 6 eligible \$500 mini-grants

Over **100** participants attended the 10th Annual Muddy River Symposium, hosted by Wheelock College

Continued support of **4th** annual COF Earth Day

Joint **faculty** presentation at NCSE (National Council for Science and The Environment) conference

4 students attended the NECSC (Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium) Conference at Wellesley College



Lana Dvorkin Camiel
*2015-2017 Center Director
Professor, Pharmacy Practice
MCPHS University*

Reflections



Dr. Henderson Pritchard

*Associate Professor, Recently Retired
Civil Engineering and Technology
Wentworth Institute of Technology*

As I recently stepped away from the past 20 years in higher education in order to pursue other passions and interests, I am reminded that my career in higher education has coincided with the 20 years the Colleges of the Fenway collaboration has been active.

The COF Center for Sustainability and the Environment has three self-directed charges; to support interdisciplinary environmental and sustainability research for faculty and students, to advance teaching about sustainability and the environment; and to provide service opportunities for students and faculty.

Serving as the Director from 2010-2012 provided many opportunities to exchange thought and expand my knowledge base regarding topics surrounding sustainability and environmental issues. I enjoyed the opportunity to connect with all of the Center's faculty as well as outside interested parties, including the National Council on Science and the Environment and the National Council of Environment Deans and Directors as well as local environmental interest groups political leaders representing our area.

The Center faculty are able to share and teach collaboratively which I personally think has been a huge benefit to my teaching. Teaching as a part of the Environmental Forum and participating in the Teach-Ins on Climate Change and other topics also gave us an opportunity to try out topics which may not be enough to warrant an entire course, but were still important topics. This more interactive, participatory teaching format was refreshing and enlightening for me.

By sharing our knowledge with our COF colleagues we have each learned more about our areas and the ways in which our research areas effect, and are effected by, various other environmental issues. So we have learned more about our own areas of interest and also about related areas.

I believe the success of the COF Center for Sustainability and the Environment comes down to the people who have been participating with the Center for the past decade including the faculty who continue to collectively share a common interest in promoting sustainability and the environment in their scholarship, their service and in their teaching.



1,856

Students created
new profiles in
Studio Abroad
database

80

Students attended
Fall Study Abroad
Fair

Global Education Opportunities (GEO) Center

Founded in 2005, the Colleges of the Fenway Global Education Opportunities (GEO) Center provides shared resources to faculty, staff, and students from across the colleges who are committed to study abroad, cross-registration, and globalization.

J-1 VISAS

Colleges of the Fenway manages immigration processing for international students, faculty, and researchers in the U.S. Dept of State's Exchange Visitor Program

In 2015-2016, the GEO Center helped to bring 63 Exchange Visitors to COF campuses



56

Different countries represented by Education Abroad or J-1 Visa Scholars

600+

students participated in pre-departure orientations (online and in-person)

TRAVEL ABROAD

1,856 new profiles created in Studio Abroad, the jointly purchased online portal, which allows students to search available summer, year-long or exchange programs

741 students traveled abroad in 2015-2016, an increase of 10%

EDUCATION

11 travel courses, led by faculty/staff, were open for cross-registration

36 SHOWA College Connection participants

263 students used tax resources offered through the GEO Center (online and in-person)

IDENTITIES ABROAD

With generous support from a NAFSA Region XI mini grant, the COF Study Abroad Council worked together to create "Identities Abroad." The guide serves to inform LGBTQ students the many ways to prepare and educate oneself for studying abroad. The guide also includes videos of COF students sharing their study abroad experiences.

Faculty & Staff Connections



18th Annual MLK Breakfast

The 18th Annual Colleges of the Fenway MLK Breakfast for faculty and staff was held on Thursday, January 21, 2016. Simmons College served as this year's host, with almost 150 people in attendance. Participants enjoyed a morning of networking and connecting with colleagues, while experiencing performances by the COF Jazz Band and COF Dance instructor, Kara Fili. Kristen Davis, a sophomore student from MassArt, shared a MLK-inspired animation video she created and Wheelock College student Simone Ngongi presented her slam poem "To America: The Modern Negro's Tragedy. A Response to MLK's Dream".

14th Annual Teaching & Learning Conference

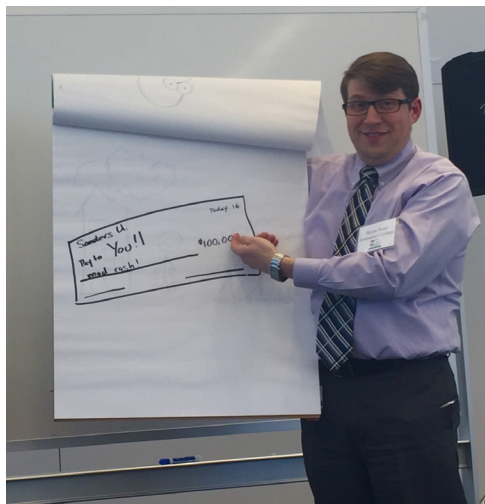
Over 100 COF faculty and staff members participated in this year's annual Teaching and Learning Conference on "Critical Conversations". The two-day conference kicked off with keynote CK Gun-salus. Her session "Change the Script by Changing Your Lines" provided strategies and skills for teaching faculty to handle critical conversations and current issues within the classroom. Participants attended both a student and faculty staff panel in which members shared their experiences on campus. During the day, six breakout sessions were offered on important and timely topics such as "Discussing Race in Predominantly White Classrooms" and "Strategies for Crucial Inclusive Classroom Conversations on Faith and Spirituality".



Faculty Dialogue Group

As a follow up to the Teaching and Learning Conference session "Discussing Race in a Predominantly White Classroom", 18 COF faculty members met to continue the conversation, launching the COF Faculty Dialogue Group. The Dialogue Group meets a few times a year and is an opportunity to engage in the national conversation on race, social justice, and privilege. The Chief Academic Officers are committed to ongoing support of the dialogue group through 2016-2017.

Faculty & Staff Connections



Institute on College Financials

On April 8, Colleges of the Fenway hosted the inaugural Institute On College Financials. Made possible by a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation, 50 faculty and staff members participated in the day-long program that provided a big picture view of the economics of higher education and economic challenges facing small colleges. One goal of the institute was for faculty and staff to take a more active and informed role in their colleges' governance and strategic planning. Rich Doherty, President of AICUM, served as the keynote, providing a presentation on "The Economics of Higher Education". Additional presentations by the CFOs included "The Tuition Driven Schools' Dilemma" and "Financial Models for Higher Education Institutions".

Leadership Management Program

The Fenway Leadership Management Program is a professional development program sponsored by the Colleges of the Fenway and open to MASCO. The program was initiated to recognize and cultivate excellence among staff and faculty throughout the COF. The sessions are customized and facilitated by highly regarded trainers. The program also provides each participant with the invaluable opportunity to meet and learn with colleagues across the COF. The cohort, comprised of 23 faculty and staff members from across the COF completed seven full-day sessions and participated in lunchtime talks with senior leaders.



Training and Development Program



The Training and Development program is a professional development opportunity offered to meet the needs of faculty and staff. In 2015-2016, over 200 faculty and staff participated in workshops such as 'Fire Them Up: Igniting Employee Motivation', "Focusing and Getting It Done When You're Overloaded", "Public Speaking", and "Business Writing". COF Training and Development sessions are planned and coordinated by the COF Human Resources Committee. Several workshops are also facilitated by AllOneHealth, the joint Employee Assistance Program.

Joint Sponsorship

Our Community Partnerships



Opening Our Doors

With continued support from COF, The Fenway Alliance hosted its 14th Annual Opening Our Doors event on October 12. Opening Our Doors is a day in which the Fenway Cultural District opens its doors so the public can experience the gems of this unique culturally - and artistically - rich Fenway neighborhood.

We Are Boston Gala

More than 1,000 of Boston's most prominent leaders, corporate partners, supporters, philanthropists and appointed and elected officials joined together on November 17 to support 10 years of Boston's diversity, immigrant heritage and contributions.



AICUM Annual Meeting

Established in 1967 by college and university presidents, AICUM is the leading voice on public policy issues affecting independent higher education in Massachusetts. AICUM works closely with its member institutions to strengthen higher education, to advocate for need-based financial aid for Massachusetts students, and to address state and federal legislative and regulatory issues.

Emerald Necklace Conservancy Meeting

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy connects people and parks and conserves the Emerald Necklace through projects and programs to enrich the visitor experience and restore and renew the 1,100 acre landscape of parkland. The conservancy works in collaboration with its partners on advocacy, maintenance and restoration, education and access, and promoting park stewardship through volunteer and youth programs.



Admissions Recruitment

The purpose of the COF Admissions Committee is to plan and evaluate joint initiatives in International Recruitment, Domestic Recruitment and shared marketing to ultimately support enrollments across the COF colleges.

400 High School students participated in COF campus tours

Counselors representing **10** countries attended the COF CIS (Council of International Schools) Forum joint reception in Scotland

Over **75** COF Admissions staff attended the annual September social to network with colleagues

40 independent counselors participated in a COF Tour

26 New England counselors attended a COF reception prior to the NEACAC (New England Association for College Admissions Counseling) Conference

Over **50** counselors attended the Western MA dinner hosted by the COF

13 New England and New Jersey independent counselors attended the COF Fall Tour

50 backpacks donated for the Boston Charter School Sendoff

Cost-Savings

5 Human Resources Joint Contracts
All One Health, Boston Works (Boston Globe/Monster), Campus Clarity, NE-HERC, PSG Temp Services

6 Information Technology Joint Contracts
Cardsmith/Blackboard(Fenway Card), Cogent & GTT (COFAN ISP), Integration Partners, Lightower dark fiber, Markley, RCN (Cable TV + Colocation)

4 Student Affairs Contracts
HTH, Qualtrics, Rentacrate, Student Health Insurance

13 Other
Akamai Servers, Beck Designs, Casella (Waste & Recycling), Education Abroad Forum, FIA (Fiduciary Investment Advisors), Hubway, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Life/LTD, Property, Liability Insurance, Rave Wireless, (Emergency Notification), Terradotta, Thomas Reuters, Workplace Answers/ Campus Answers

TOTAL COST-SAVINGS
\$2,523,497

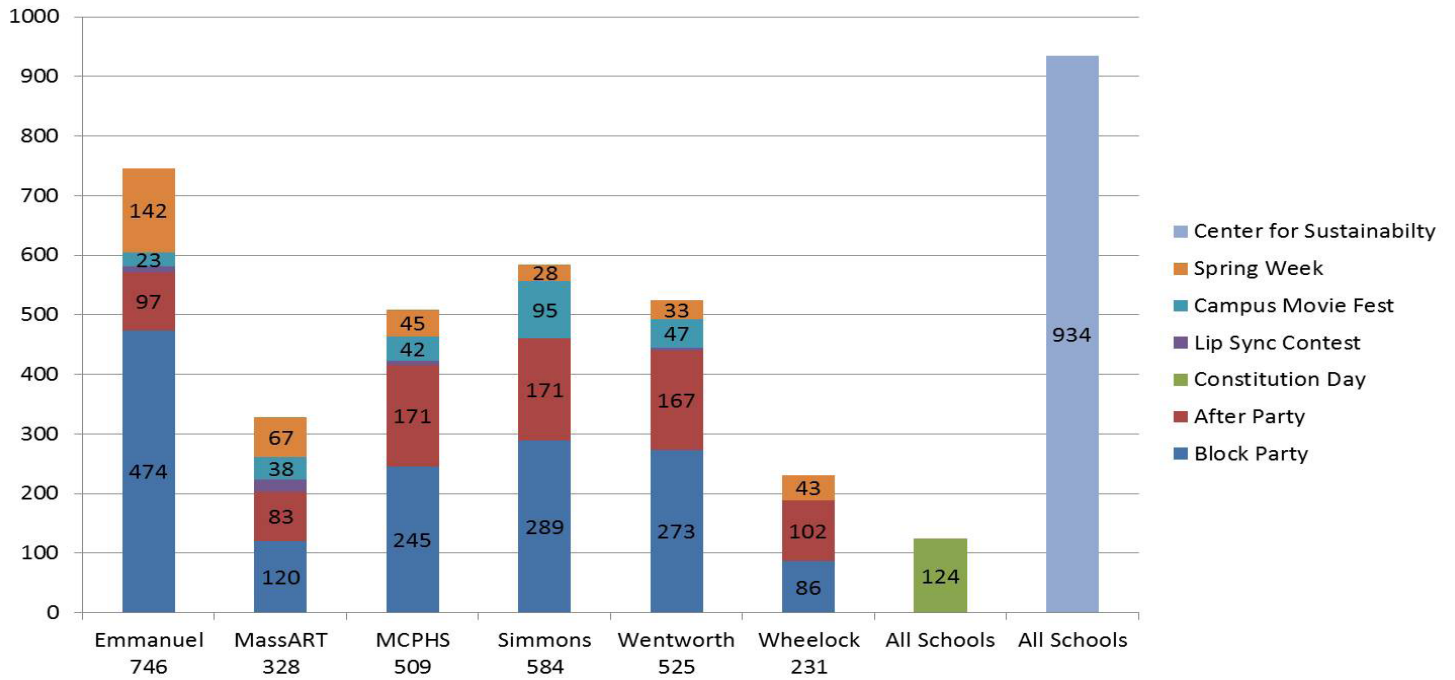
The consortium serves as a steward of resources. We explore ways to collaborate and look for opportunities to save time, money and enhance services.

5,377
VISITS TO
ISABELLA STEWART
GARDNER MUSEUM

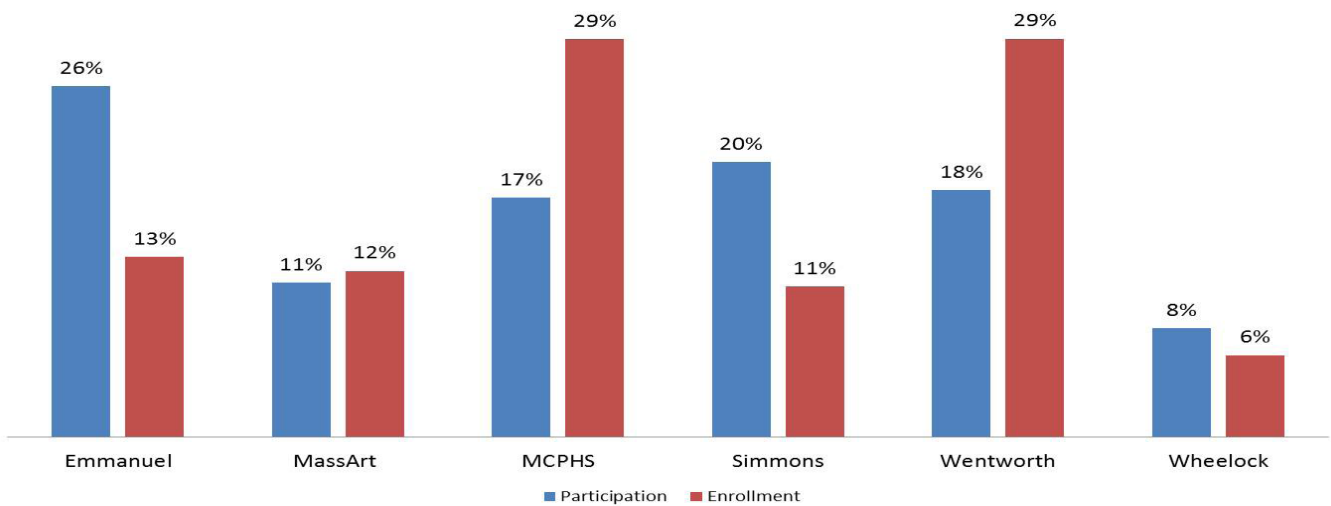
FENWAY CASH
\$1,674,693
SPENT WITHIN CAMPUS
AND LOCAL COMMUNITY

515
HUBWAY
TRIPS
TAKEN

Student Participation FY 2016 Total 3,981

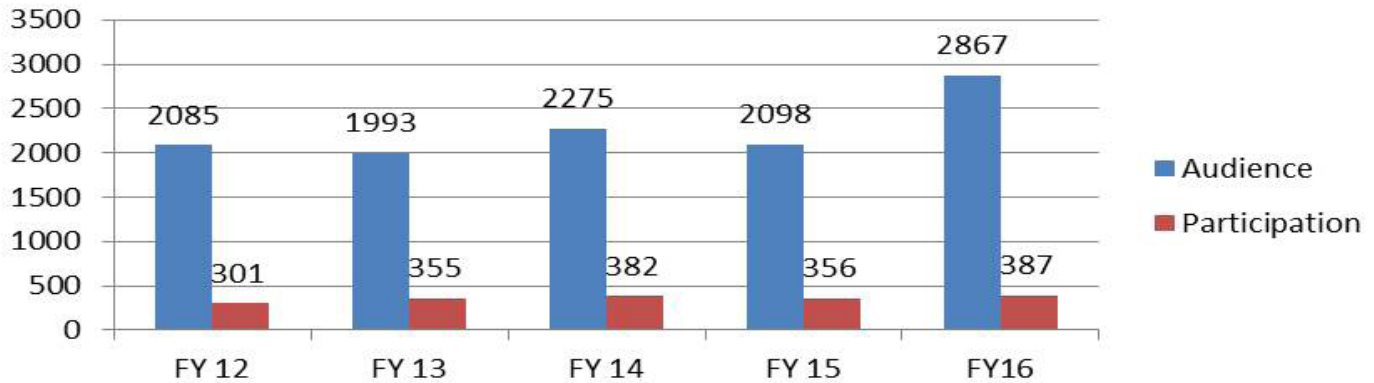


% Participation vs Undergraduate Enrollment Rates* FY 2016

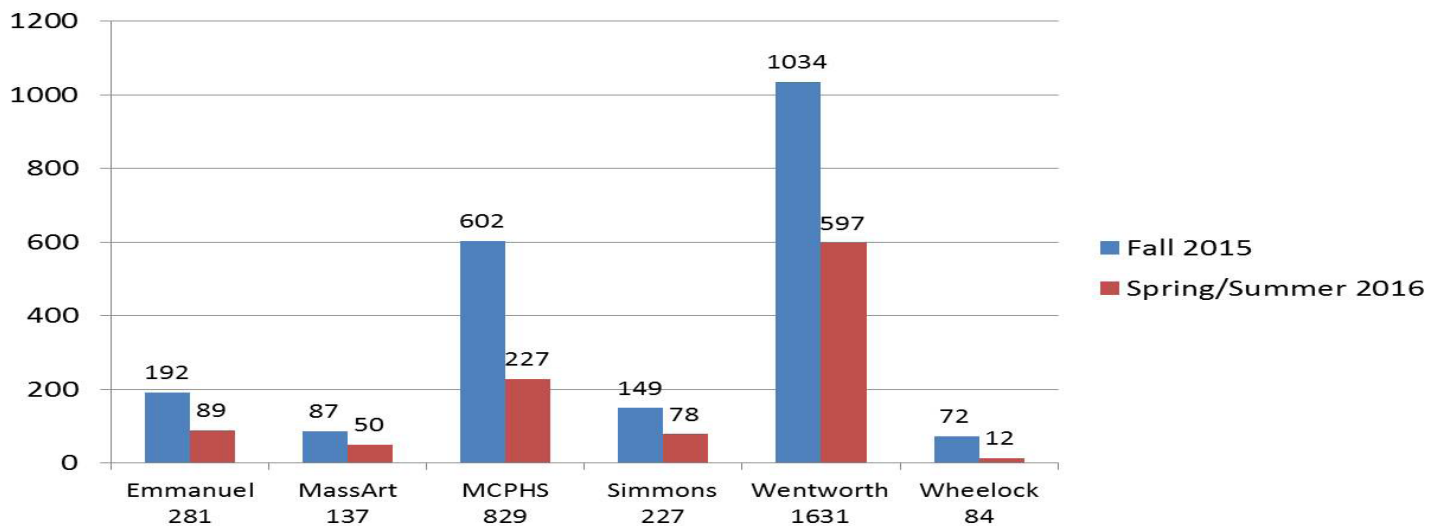


**Does not include Constitution Day or Center for Sustainability Events*

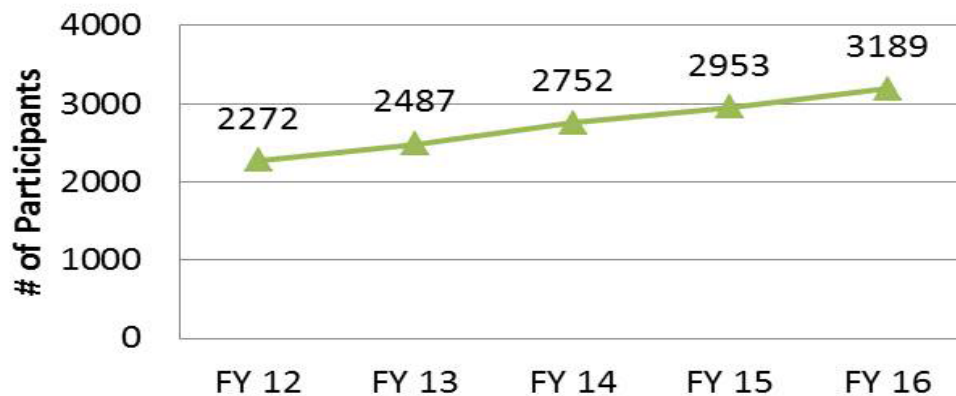
Total Performing Arts Audience and Participation FY 2012-2016



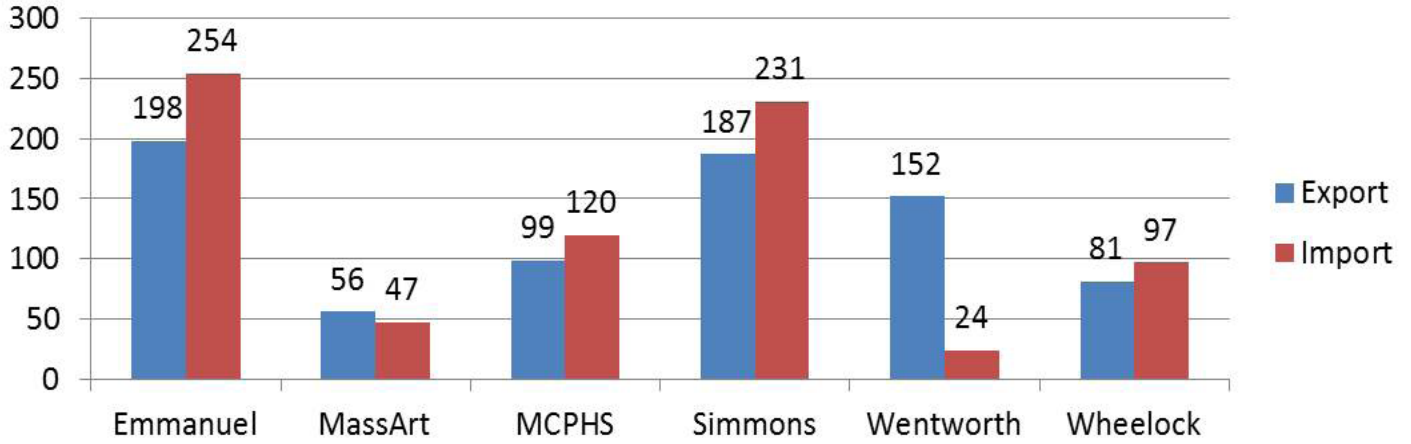
Intramurals Participation FY 2016



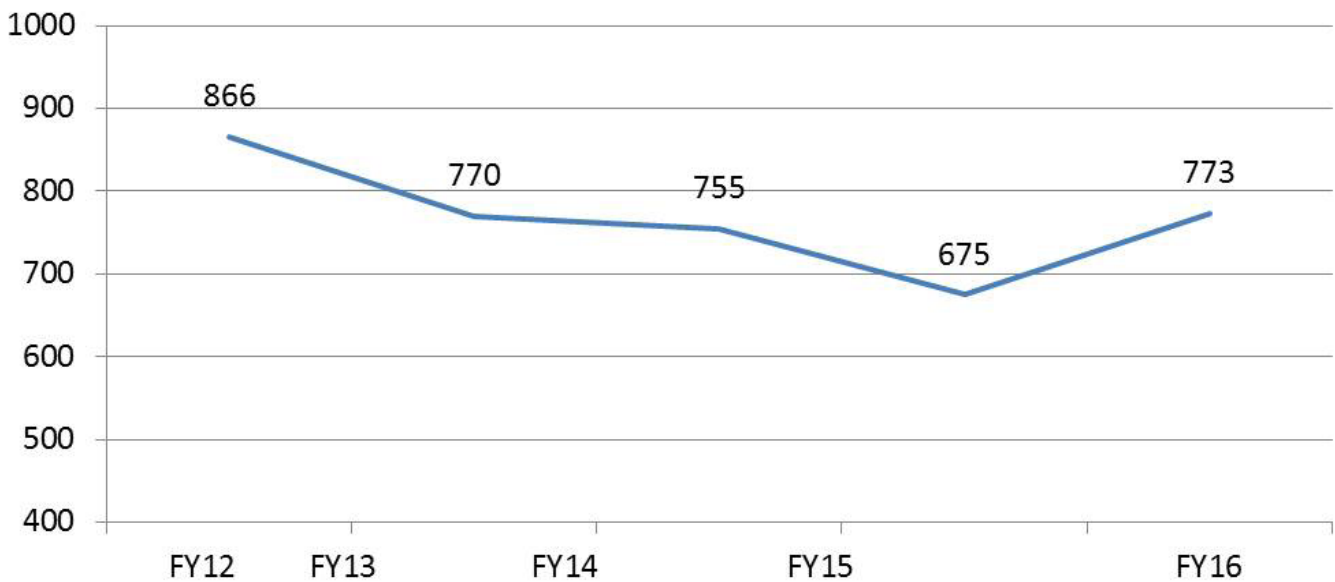
Total Intramurals Participation FY 2012-2016



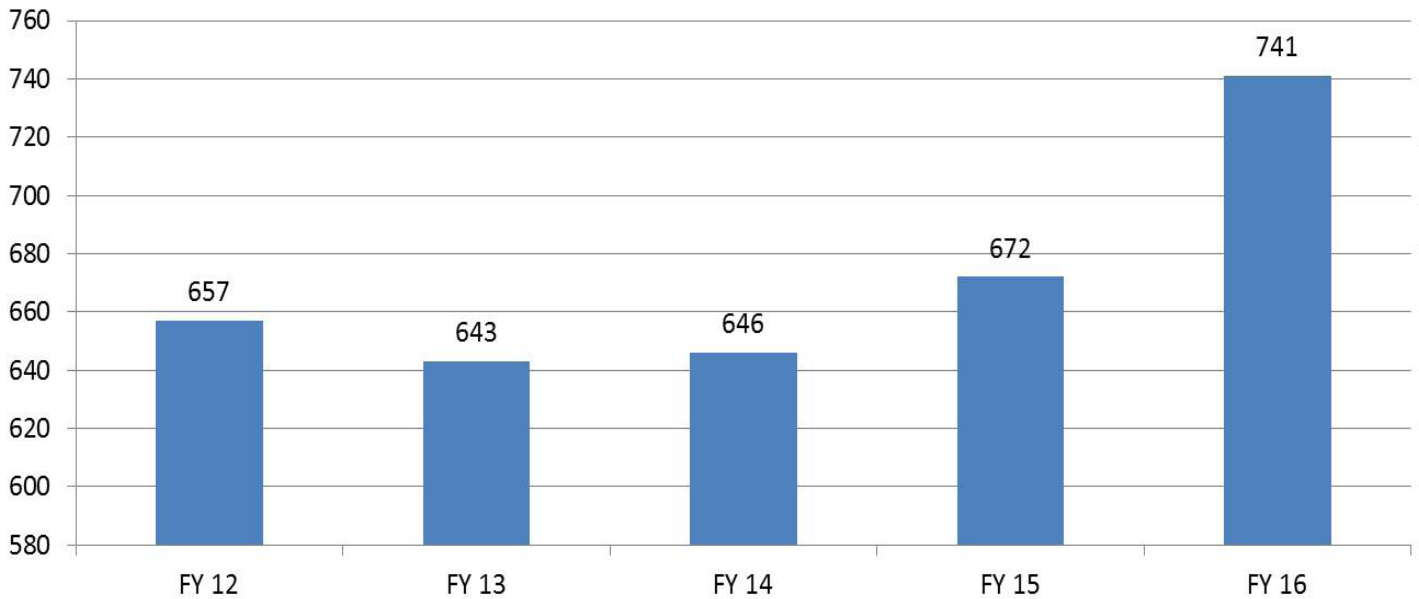
Total Cross-Registration FY 2016 (Fall, Spring, Summer) Total 773



Total Cross-Registration FY 2012-2016

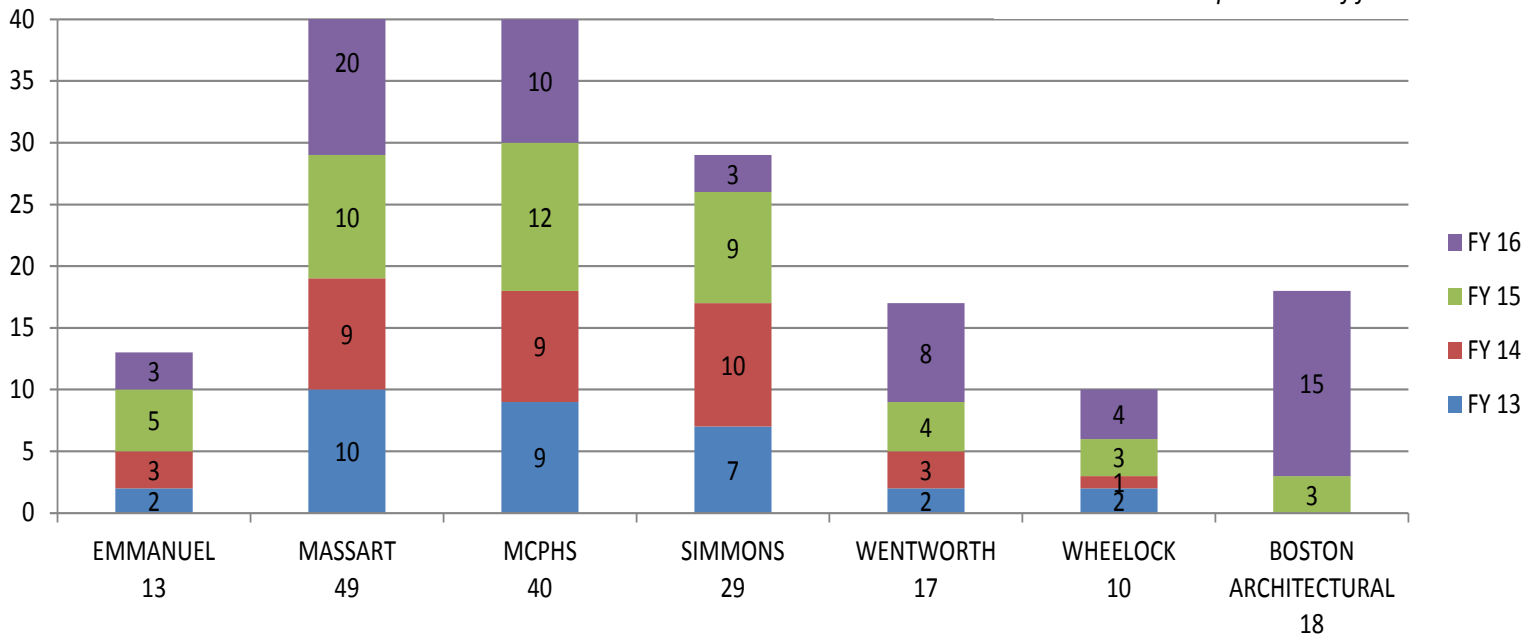


International Travel Student Participants FY 2012-2016

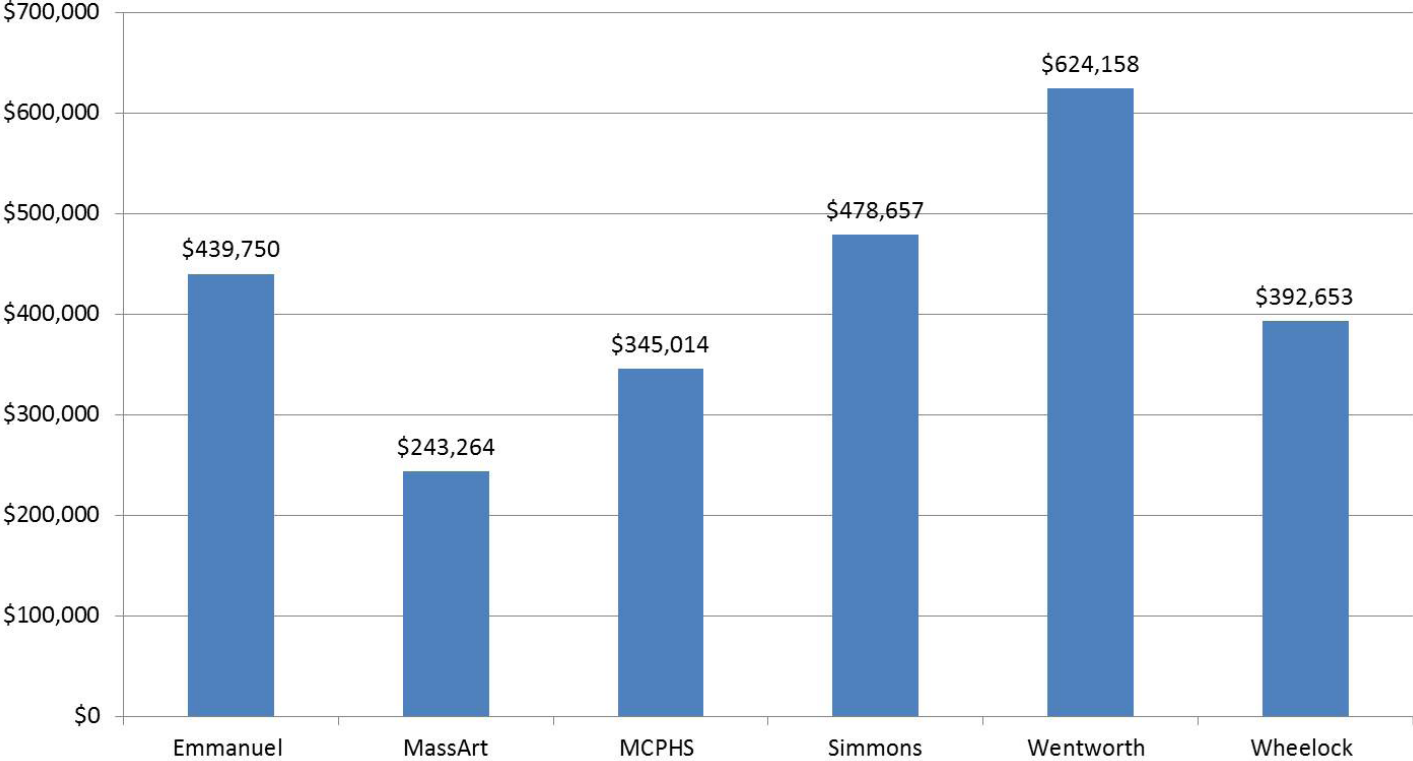


J- 1 Visas Students & Scholars FY 2013-2016

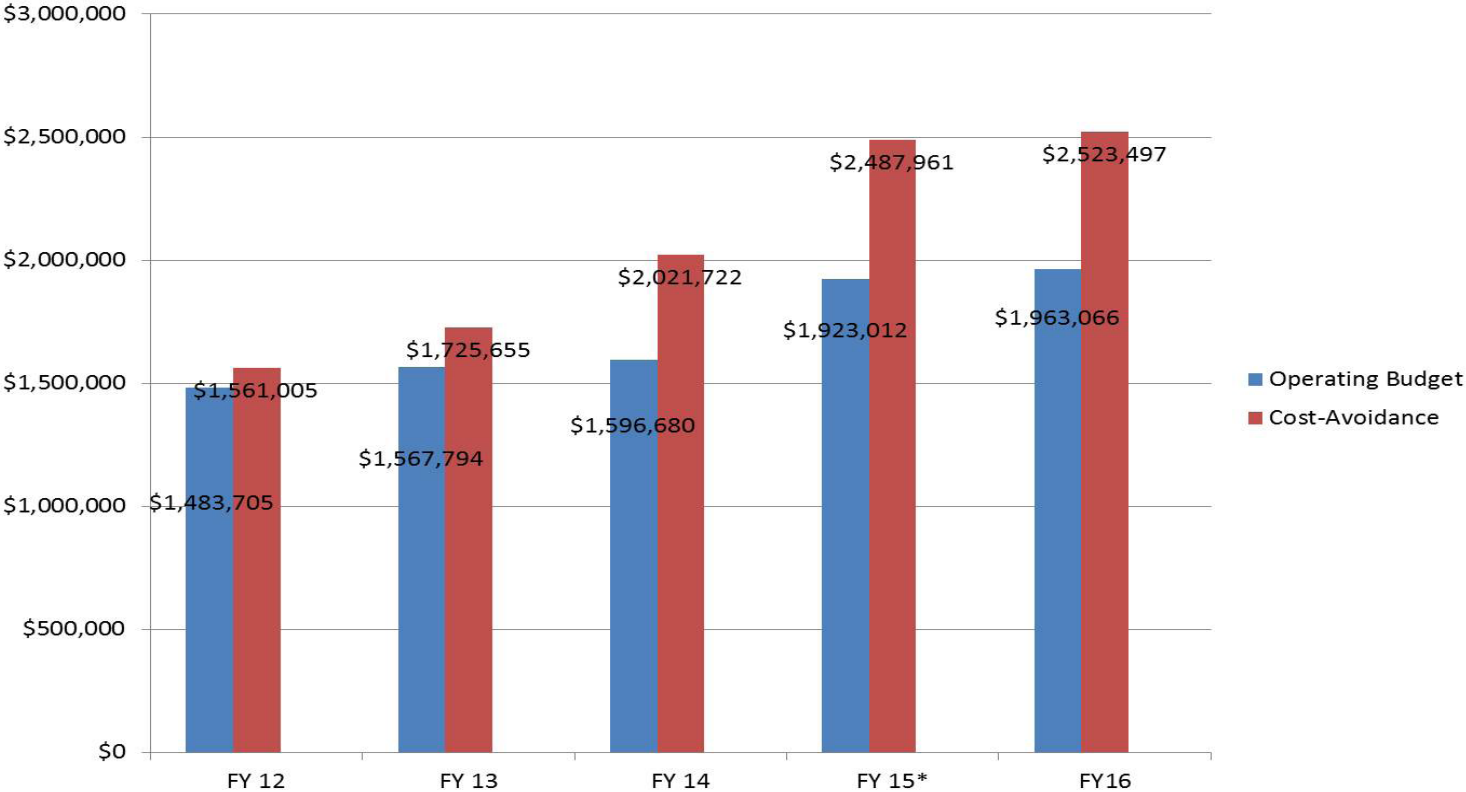
**By collaborating, 100% of COF schools are able to participate in the Exchange Visitor Program, even if individually they do not meet the minimum requirement of five J-1 visas.*



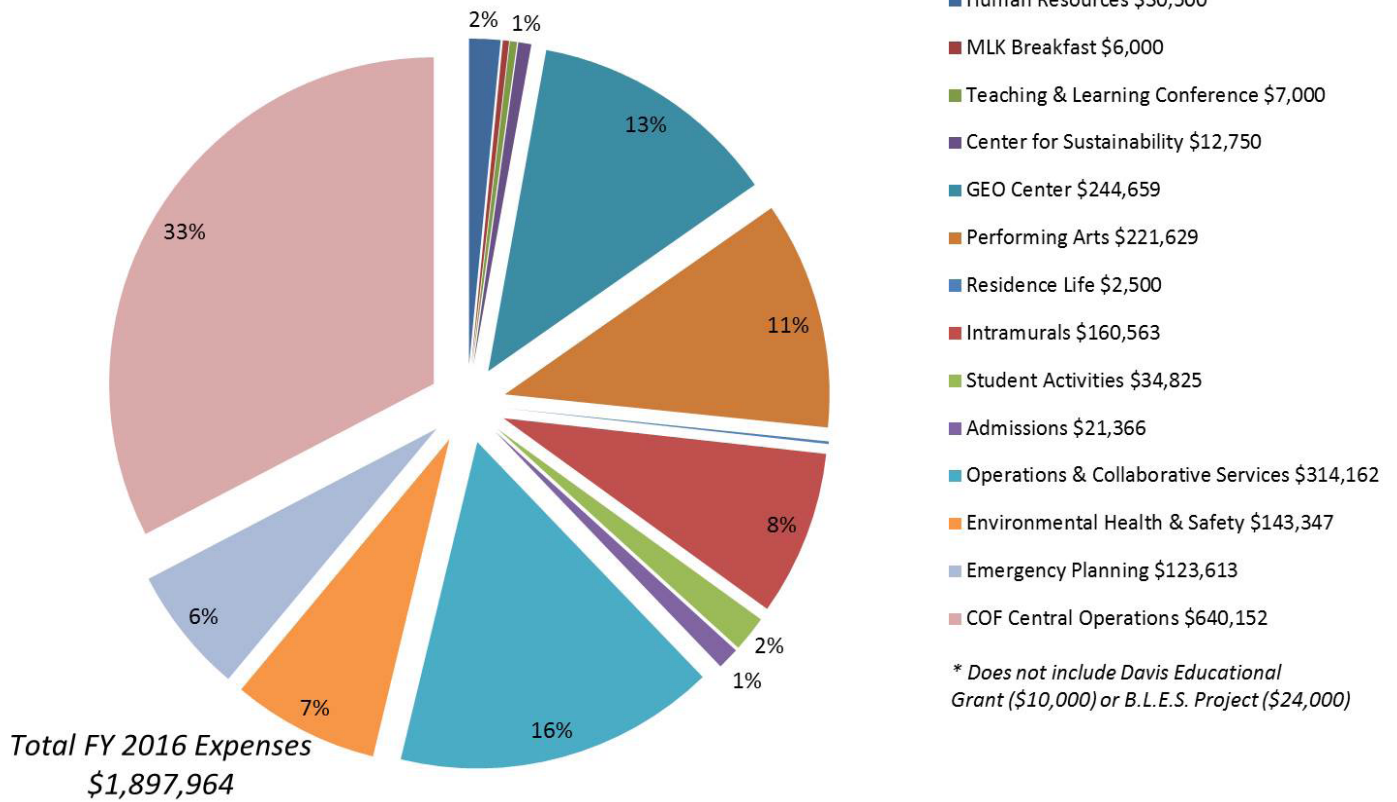
Cost-Avoidance By School Through Joint Contracts FY 2016



Operating Budget vs. Cost-Avoidance Through Joint Contracts FY 2012-2016



**COF Operating Budget
FY 2016
\$1,963,066***



Claire Ramsbottom
Executive Director

Tasha Baclawski
Senior Director
Programs and Communications

Rebecca Bacon
Director
Global Education Opportunities
(GEO) Center

Jennifer Bosselman
Director
Environmental Health & Safety

Annabelle Bozin
Program Assistant
Central Office

Ray Fahrner
Director
Office of Performing Arts

Shannon Fitzgerald
Program Assistant
Operations and Collaborative Services

Deborah Pepper
Senior Director
Operations and Collaborative Services

Bryan Sears
Director
Emergency Preparedness

Brad Tittrington
Director, Office of Intramurals
and Recreational Sports

Douglas Upton
Assistant Director
Global Education Opportunities
(GEO) Center

Looking Ahead

COF Strategic Focus Areas

DEFINE AND COMMUNICATE OUR IDENTITY

DESIGN INNOVATIVE SHARED ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

ENHANCE OUR SHARED STUDENT EXPERIENCE

INCREASE RESOURCE EFFICIENCIES

REDESIGN OUR GOVERNANCE MODEL

"Make a COF hub. Use it for info, registration, gatherings etc."

"Meet other COF students during orientation."

"Actual Spring weekend that compares to those of larger universities."

"More COF events aimed specifically for certain groups of students (i.e. International students, students of color, etc)"



Colleges of the Fenway, Inc.

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