

Local lawmakers praise Biden's Jobs Plan

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Lawmakers representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in Washington are praising President Joe Biden's American Jobs Plan revealed at the end of March.

The plan prioritizes several initiatives including focusing on transportation infrastructure like roads and bridges, improving access to drinking water, renewing electrical grids and increasing access to high-speed broadband, modernizing schools, hospitals, federal buildings, homes and commercial facilities, revitalizing manufacturing, and focusing on creating quality jobs supporting safe and healthy workplaces while pre-

serving American workers' choice to organize. The \$2.25 trillion plan received compliments from both Sen. Edward Markey and Massachusetts 1st Congressional District Rep. Richard Neal who touted the president's plan as a powerful step forward living up to the President's campaign promises.

"Our country needs a roadmap for recovery that addresses the intersecting crises we face — climate change, a public health pandemic, racial injustice, and economic inequality," Markey said in a statement. "President Biden put forward a plan that makes important investments in our nation's infrastructure, creates millions of jobs, and combats our climate crisis. The final package that Congress must pass

in the coming months must be bold and transformational. I will be pushing for legislation that centers justice and repairs harms to communities, creates good-paying union jobs as part of a clean energy economy, and most critically, enacts change with the speed and urgency demanded by the scope of the crises we face. I look forward to working with the Biden administration and my colleagues to pass that package."

Congressman Richard Neal, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, also complimented the plan saying he looks forward to addressing the plan in the House.

"The President's plan recognizes that some things are not negotiable—Americans need access to clean drinking

water; underserved communities need long overdue access to broadband; and we must act aggressively on countering the effects of climate change. Most of all, Americans need to be able to count on the resiliency of our infrastructure to keep us competitive on the global stage and to keep our economy roaring forward in the better days that lie ahead," Congressman Neal said. "I'm hopeful that Congress can once again come together, build on the success of the American Rescue Plan, and make President Biden's infrastructure package law. We cannot miss this chance to level the playing field for communities that have been left behind and spread opportunity for all Americans. The Ways and Means Committee welcomes this ambitious proposal

and looks forward to working with the Biden Administration on crafting legislation that can garner wide support and deliver for the American people."

On April 7, President Biden himself touted the plan as the "single largest investment in American jobs since World War II" and said of his administration's plan that it "puts millions of Americans to work to fix what's broken in our country: tens of thousands of miles of roads and highways, thousands of bridges in desperate need of repair. But it also is a blueprint for infrastructure needed for tomorrow — not just yesterday; tomorrow — for American jobs, for American competitiveness."

Bay Path alum named 2021 MAIC Champion Awardee



Heidi Bedard

CHARLTON — Heidi Bedard, LPN of Brookfield, a graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, class of 2014 was named the 2021 Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference (MAIC) Champion Awardee. The announcement was made by the MAIC planning committee recently.

Each year, the MAIC planning committee selects the Adult Immunization Champion Award winner based on a nomination and review process. The review committee looks for nominees who have shown leadership, innovation, collaboration, advocacy, and initiative in adult immunization. The review committee was pleased to announce Heidi Bedard, LPN as the 2021 MAIC Champion Awardee and her achievement will be recognized during the 26th Annual Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference on Tuesday, April 13. Bedard is the Clinical

Coordinator of Vaccine Management at the Family Health Center of Worcester (FHCW). She is described by her colleagues as a "tireless champion of immunizations for the patients who receive care at the FHCW."

Bedard is responsible for many initiatives encouraging adult immunizations. Bedard's meticulous planning resulted in FHCW's provision of over 3,425 flu vaccines to low-income, culturally diverse patients in need. Her efforts almost tripled last year's adult flu vaccination count of 1,250. Bedard and her team accomplished this through the establishment of a walk-in, six-day a week community-based flu clinic and engaging in community outreach efforts. Further, Bedard initiated efforts to decrease duplicate patient records for FHCW in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). Since March 2020, Bedard has

decreased the duplicate patient records in the MIIS for FHCW from more than 15,000 records to zero records. She continues to innovate and has implemented a booster vaccination catch-up program for adults (18-35). The review committee acknowledges that "given the increased urgency of access to the flu vaccine this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the logistical barriers the pandemic presented, Heidi's accomplishments are truly astounding."

Bedard is a Certified Coordinator for Vaccine Management and is ACLS and BLS Certified (American Heart Association). She graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in 2014 and was one of the class representatives. Most recently, she spearheaded her team goals "scrubbed out" in Winter Walk Worcester to support Worcester Health Care for the Homeless, a program of FHCW.

QCC announces Commencement ceremony plans

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has announced its May 21, 2021 Commencement Ceremony will be held virtually.

"The College came to this difficult decision after a review of current public health advice and the many unknown factors of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic's course over the next months. Our first and foremost commitment is to the safety of our faculty, staff, students and their families," said President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "While we are encouraged by the rollout of vaccines; many are still waiting to be vaccinated and current safety protocols preclude us from holding an in-person ceremony."

QCC's featured virtual commencement speaker will be nationally-recognized scholar and elected official, Maya Rockeymoore-Cummings, Ph.D.

Dr. Rockeymoore-Cummings has championed social justice causes in areas that include health equity, pro-

tection of social entitlement programs, income security, diversity and inclusion, and civil rights. Her career has spanned over 22 years of service in the United States Congress, the National Urban League, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and the nonprofit sector. Most recently, Dr. Rockeymoore-Cummings toured the country championing her late husband, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings' autobiography, "We're Better than This: My Fight for the Future of Our Democracy."

"We are honored to have such an esteemed and relevant speaker as Dr. Rockeymoore-Cummings at our commencement ceremony," President Pedraja said. "She brings a focus on the impact of public policy on people of color, vulnerable populations, and marginalized communities, and works with others on ways to dismantle systemic inequalities found in our society, in order for all people to succeed and thrive."

The College is offering free caps, gowns and tassels to all QCC August 2020, December 2020, and May 2021 graduates for this year's commencement.

"I look forward to welcoming the Class of 2021 into the esteemed group of QCC alumni who have done so much for our community," President Pedraja added.

To learn more visit www.QCC.edu/commencement-2021.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

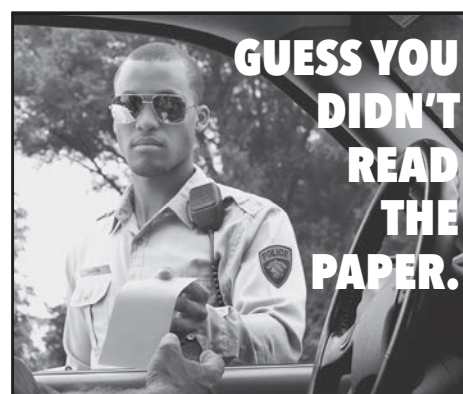


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