



**Framingham**  
State University

# *Women Making History Now*



**TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021**

**4:30 - 6:30 P.M.**

**VIRTUAL EVENT**

# **Program**

## **WELCOMING REMARKS**

Patricia Birch, Director of Inclusive Excellence Initiatives,  
Framingham State University

## **GREETINGS FROM FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Javier Cevallos, President

## **WORDS OF EXHORTATION**

Dr. Yvonne Spicer, Mayor of the City of Framingham  
and 2018 WMHN Honoree

## **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

Framingham State University students and 2021 Honorees

## **PRESENTATION OF CITATIONS**

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Dr. Constanza Cabello, Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion,  
and Community Engagement, Framingham State University



## Colleen Coffey

Colleen Coffey has dedicated the last 25 professional years to education, community development, intentional community building, access and equity. She is the inaugural Executive Director of the MetroWest College Planning Collaborative. The CPC's vision is for a thriving Boston to MetroWest region where educational opportunity and success exists for all students and families. Under Colleen's leadership the CPC has grown from a team of one to a team of fifteen superstars serving 500 underserved youth from 8 different school districts. The CPC is also a proud and passionate Early College Designation.

Coffey gained experience in community very young through family work and values in social justice in Milwaukee, WI. She participated in an exchange in Brazil in high school and began her career after college through service in Latin America directing community development and educational projects. She took her mission-based social justice experience into the classroom and community while teaching Spanish language at Marquette University for more than a decade. There she founded the Virtual Dual Immersion Project where thousands of students and 125 faculty from 14 universities in both Latin America and the United States engaged in global collaborative learning partnerships. Coffey became passionate about access and equity while she observed her students drop out of college well before degree completion. She has since directed several programs for college access and workforce development.

Colleen earned a BA in Spanish from Creighton University, and MA in Spanish Literature from Marquette University and post graduate studies in Latin American Literature from Boston College. Coffey's greatest teachers are her two sons. Colleen is the proud mom of Nicolas and Nathan and life partner of Donovan.



## Dr. Beverly Edgehill

For thirty years, Dr. Beverly Edgehill has been a transformational leader, integrator of large scale change strategies and a stabilizer for the next stage of organizational change and growth. She has proven her ability to effectively lead, guide and partner with other leaders in planning and executing transformation strategies.

Dr. Edgehill's particular interest is in the dynamic that occurs at the intersection of organizational activities and individual leadership. As a scholar-practitioner, she is a student of current research and practiced at assisting leaders to drive institutional performance.

During her tenure as President and CEO of the leadership development organization, The Partnership, Inc., Dr. Edgehill designed revenue generating talent management and leadership solutions to reflect the changing business priorities of her clients. Through collaboration with the Harvard Business School and faculty from other academic institutions, her legacy leadership development programs have continued to graduate senior leaders for industry and academia across the United States.

Dr. Edgehill, a former regional selection panelist for the White House Fellows program, completed her studies at Teachers College, Columbia University with a doctorate in Adult and Organizational Learning. Most recently she was honored as one of Boston's Influential Women by the Women of the Harvard Club, and as an Unstoppable Woman by the Boston YW.



## Patricia Hohl

Patricia Hohl is the Director at Voices Against Violence in Framingham where the mission is to save lives, rebuild lives, and secure safer futures for survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Prior to taking the helm at Voices, Hohl worked as a national training and technical assistance provider implementing Domestic Violence High Risk Teams across the country as part of an Office on Violence Against Women / Dept. of Justice Demonstration Initiative. Hohl is an attorney with over two decades of nonprofit management experience. She holds a B.S. in Business from UMASS Lowell, a M.S. in Nonprofit Management from Boston University, a graduate certificate in Gender Leadership and Public Policy from UMASS Boston's McCormack Graduate School of Policy & Global Studies, and a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School.

Hohl was recently appointed to the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women by Senate President Karen Spilka, having previously served on the MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women since its inception in 2015, where she was, at different times, Chair and Legislative Director. She volunteers as a member of the Jane Doe Inc. Policy Advisory Committee and is active in the League of Women Voters of Framingham.



## Tiffany Lillie

Tiffany Lillie currently serves as the Director of Community Resource Development (CRD) for Framingham Public Schools. In her role, Lillie manages the Out of School Time programming for over 2,500 students and 200 employees providing high-quality STEAM, Project-Based Learning with a focus on community partnerships. The department works with over 30 local non-profits and community partners to provide equity and access for all students and programs.

Prior to joining the MetroWest community, Lillie worked around the state with several Community Based Organizations and municipal governments for over 10 years including You Inc., YWCA, Girls Inc., and the City of Cambridge. During her tenure at the YWCA, she found a passion for youth development, creating and implementing youth programs focused on gender inequality and the achievement gap.

Her educational background includes a bachelor's degree in Neuroscience Psychology from the University of Massachusetts Boston and a master's degree in Urban Planning from Boston University. Lillie also serves on the board of RIA House and Pelham Lifelong Learning Center Advisory Board. Her education and professional background further fueled her passion for community engagement, as a key to success in education. Beyond her love for community, Lillie also enjoys photography, cooking, and traveling.



## District Attorney Rachael Rollins

Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins is the chief law enforcement official for Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Massachusetts, and oversees an office of approximately 300 people handling approximately 35,000 new cases each year. She took office on Jan. 2, 2019, as Suffolk County's 16th district attorney, the first woman to be elected to that position in Suffolk County history, and the first woman of color ever to serve as a Massachusetts district attorney.

District Attorney Rollins pledged to pursue a mission of reducing incarceration, correcting racial and ethnic disparities, adopting alternatives to traditional prosecution, focusing the offices limited resources on serious and violent crimes, and improving relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

Among her first and most impactful initiatives, District Attorney Rollins implemented a policy of presumptively dismissing and/or diverting certain low-level misdemeanor charges. These offenses are often symptomatic not of criminal intent but of mental illness, substance use disorder, and poverty. Instead of using her limited resources to prosecute and incarcerate these offenders, District Attorney Rollins seeks to hold them accountable while providing access to services and treatment to address the underlying issues that likely led the individual to offend.

An attorney for 20 years with degrees from Northeastern University School of Law and Georgetown University Law Center, District Attorney Rollins is also a former Governor Deval Patrick appointee to the Judicial Nominating Commission, a past president of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, and was elected and served a three-year term on the Boston Bar Association Council.



## Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito

Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito was sworn in for a second term as the 72nd Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on January 3, 2019, after a first term focused on moving Massachusetts forward through bipartisan, results-driven leadership.

Since taking office with Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito has visited and partnered with leadership in all 351 of the Commonwealth's cities and towns, signing Community Compact agreements with every municipality on more than 800 smarter ways to deliver services. Additionally, under her leadership, the Seaport Economic Council has directed more focus and support to helping coastal communities address their unique challenges and economic opportunities.

Lt. Governor Polito has worked closely with local officials to encourage housing production through the *Housing Choice Initiative*, improve roadways, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, pathways, and intersections through the *Complete Streets* program, and invest in on-the-ground, proactive projects to address climate change impacts through the *Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness* program.

As co-chair of the STEM Advisory Council, Lt. Governor Polito has encouraged further opportunities in STEM education to inspire more students to get involved in these important fields and better connect them to good careers.

As chair of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, Lt. Governor Polito and a diverse team of professionals have brought innovative approaches to combating domestic violence.

Lt. Governor Polito is a lifelong resident of Shrewsbury where she owns and operates a commercial real estate development firm and lives with her husband, Stephan M. Rodolakis, and their two children.

# Women Making History Now

## Past Recipients

### 2016

Karen E. Spilka  
Yves Salomon-Fernandez, PhD  
Linda Vaden-Goad, PhD  
Jen Maseda  
Helen Lemoine  
Diane Patrick

### 2017

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority  
Maura Healey  
Rita Colucci  
Sonia Diaz  
Sylvia Ruiz  
Susan Nicholl

### 2018

Yvonne Spicer, PhD  
Marguerite Simpson-Lackard  
Rosalin Acosta  
Dana Neshe  
Ilma Paixao  
Lorretta Holloway, PhD

### 2019

Margareth Basilio Shepard  
Amy Brown  
Audrey Hall  
Ayanna Pressley  
Patricia Sánchez-Connally, PhD  
Courtney Thraen

\* 2020 ceremony canceled due to COVID-19



**Framingham**  
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