 

**NEWS RELEASE**  Contact: Terence Burke 617-901-1697

For Immediate Release tburke@denterlein.com

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**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CUMMINGS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GRANTS ADMISSION TO ENTIRE GRADUATING CLASS OF DEARBORN STEM ACADEMY**

*Admission program clears a pathway to STEM-based, career-ready learning for Academy students and a family member*

**Boston, MA –** The Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology (BFIT), a private non-profit college offering affordable education for people seeking technical and trade careers, today announced that the entire 2022 graduating class of the Dearborn STEM Academy, a Boston Public School in Roxbury, has been granted admission to the College. Dearborn students can begin instruction in the fall if they choose after achieving their degree and submitting their FAFSA application. This class is the inaugural cohort of graduates who will be admitted annually to BFIT and known as Dearborn STEM Academy Scholars. In addition to admission, Dearborn STEM Academy Scholars can nominate a family member over the age of 19 to be admitted to BFIT. While tuition will not be waived, and students will be required to complete the FAFSA, this initiative aims to provide a supported, direct path to college for students who wish to start learning career-ready technical skills but face structural barriers that might impede their access.

“While many high school students have the ability and desire to learn career-readying technical skills, sometimes the combination of structural barriers and a confidence gap can discourage eligible students from pursuing educational opportunities beyond high school,” said Dr. Aisha Francis, president & CEO of BFIT. “We are proactively admitting all graduates from Dearborn STEM Academy because we know they are well-prepared to pursue their technical education at a higher level. Extending this offer to a member of their family will lead to career opportunities and economic stability at a two-generational level.”

Boston Plan for Excellence has launched an initial fund with the goal of providing last dollar scholarships to fully fund students pursuing an associate degree at BFIT or other institutions they attend. Generous donors have already contributed nearly $150,000 to date.

“Dearborn STEM Academy prepares our students for the 21st century workforce through rigorous academics and career readiness,” said Darlene Marcano, principal of Dearborn STEM Academy. “We are confident that our 2022 graduates who choose to attend BFIT will thrive, grow, and continue on their path to opportunity at BFIT.”

Upon completing their FAFSA application and achieving their high school diploma or its equivalent, students in the Dearborn STEM Academy 2022 graduating class who wish to attend BFIT will be able to do so beginning in fall of 2022. Additionally, an immediate family member, 19-years-old or older, of each attending student may also attend BFIT if they choose.

***About Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology***

Founded in 1908 in Boston, Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology is an affordable, urban College serving the Boston region and committed to student success and career readiness in technology fields, 90% of which are integrated with an approach to sustainability. With clean and green tech verticals in their top programs like HVAC&R, Wind Energy Technology, Automotive, and Electrical Engineering, BFIT provides personalized support, hands-on learning, and industry-informed curricula to prepare graduates for well-paid work, life-long learning, and civic engagement. The new name, Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology, is currently under review by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. For more information, please go to [www.bfit.edu](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/m40ZCNk11Nu9YmMilmjzm?domain=bfit.edu/).

***About Boston Plan for Excellence and Dearborn STEM Academy***

Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE) operates two Boston public schools: Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School and Dearborn STEM Academy, which form a PreK-12 STEM pathway for the Dudley neighborhood of Roxbury. BPE also runs Boston Teacher Residency, a clinical model for preparing teachers for the Boston Public Schools. Dearborn STEM Academy is an innovation pathway school whose STEM career pathways model ensures that all students, especially those under-represented in college and high skill, high demand careers, will have clear opportunities for success. Our program provides our students with access to STEM education aligned to industry skills and standards, matched with Early College and internship experiences that will help students transfer learned classroom skills into authentic college and career experiences.

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