

Opening Access and Supporting Communities, Jackie Jenkins-Scott has Led a Career as an ‘Innovator for Good’



Being the first is not a new experience for Jackie Jenkins-Scott. From being the first in her family to go to college to becoming the first African American president of Wheelock College, she is keenly aware of the barriers and systems that require change to ensure access, equity, and inclusion for all. For more than three decades she has led a career of distinction in community healthcare and higher education in pursuit of opening doors and creating opportunities for underserved communities. In recognition for her countless contributions, Eastern Bank Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Eastern Bank, honored Jenkins-Scott with its 2024 Social Justice award at its annual Celebration of Social Justice on October 1. More than 700+ business, philanthropic, and community leaders joined together to honor Jenkins-Scott and mark the Eastern Bank Foundation's 30th anniversary.

Jenkins-Scott recently concluded her two-year tenure as Roxbury Community College's (RCC) interim president. During that time of transition for RCC, Jenkins-Scott helped strengthen the college's leadership team to ensure underserved students were well-prepared for high-growth careers and business ownership that will spur economic inclusion and mobility.

"Jackie is a transformer and innovator for good," said Nancy Huntington Stager, President & CEO of Eastern Bank Foundation. "Her boundless energy and deep connections in communities of color –including with our next generation of civic and business leaders– together with her super powers to take on difficult situations, create a vision and rally others



Pictured celebrating at the 2024 Celebration of Social Justice are L to R: Denis Sheahan, Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Bank; Nancy Huntington Stager, President & Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Bank Foundation; Jackie Jenkins-Scott, Eastern Bank 2024 Social Justice Award Honoree; Bob Rivers, Executive Chair and Chair of the Board, Eastern Bank; and Turahn Dorsey, Chief Impact Officer, Eastern Bank Foundation.

to join in the work, and her persistence to stay at it until positive outcomes are achieved is a gift for all of us in Boston and Massachusetts. Eastern Bank and our Foundation are proud and humbled to be long-term supporters of Jackie's work and vision. While she may think of retirement, we know that she will always be a force for good in our communities and look forward to what's coming next."

In 2004, Jenkins-Scott broke through barriers by becoming Wheelock College's first African American president. Over the next 12 years she grew academic options and quality, as well as the enrollment of ethnically and differently-abled students by 40 percent.

Becoming a college president was not a natural career path for Jenkins-Scott, having never before worked in higher education. As a determined champion and changemaker, Jenkins-Scott spent the previous 20 years at the helm of Roxbury's Dimock Center, starting in the early 1980's. While maintaining it as a vital source for community healthcare, she took the organization from near-bankruptcy to a successful and sustainable benchmark institution for health and wrap-around services like workforce development and affordable housing.

"With Eastern Bank and Eastern Bank Foundation having been at the epicenter

of the work for Social Justice for as long as I have, I am delighted to receive this award," said Jenkins-Scott. "We are living in challenging times which makes the continued push for equity in health, education, and economic inclusion and mobility even more important. We must continue to press ahead with optimism as the opposite – despair – is just not an option. Our young people getting ready for their first careers, our families and our neighbors need to be given agency to build their lives on a more equitable footing. Let's all keep pushing for that together across nonprofit, for-profit and policy efforts."

It is her storied career that has made Jenkins-Scott a sought-after sounding board and advisor for those in the nonprofit sector to Governors and Mayors across the Commonwealth. Often called-upon to provide her leadership on non-profit boards, Jenkins-Scott brought a sense of justice and equity to her engagements on the boards of The Boston Foundation, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, and the Tufts Health Plan. Her approach and passion for mission-based organizations is detailed in her book, *The 7 Secrets of Responsive Leadership*.

Marking its 30th anniversary at this celebration, the Foundation recognized its eleven Founding Trustees for their vision and persistence in creating and fostering the Foundation. Since its inception, the Eastern Bank Foundation has supported more than 7,000 unique organizations with over 36,000 grants and invested more than \$171MM+ in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. A regional leader in volunteerism, Eastern employees have devoted more than 730,000 volunteer hours since 1994.

Eastern Bank Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Eastern Bank, actively listens to and partners with our neighbors and fellow changemakers across nonprofit, for-profit, and government sectors to further community vibrancy and promote structural change. Learn more at: <https://www.easternbank.com/eastern-bank-foundation>