



On a cloudy morning of June, 15 boys from the Holmes Elementary School visited UMass Boston. The group of third graders is part of the Empowerment Mentoring Program, a project led by HORIZON Post Doctoral Fellow Jesse Tauriac.

The program consists of matching undergraduate mentors to third grade boys who have been identified at risk and recruited by the Holmes Elementary School in Dorchester. The mentors, who are recruited and trained by Jesse Tauriac, visit the school weekly and provide social support and encouragement to the children with the goal of improving their performance in school.

During the visit, the children, mentors and chaperones met staff and faculty from the Psychology and the Africana studies departments, had a tour of the campus, played basketball in the Clark Athletic Center, enjoyed a harbor cruise, visited a class, and enjoyed lunch at the dining hall. The purpose of the field trip was to expose the children to the university experience.

The program was developed and offered in response to requests from Boston elementary schools as a partnership of the HORIZON Center, the schools, and the Dorchester Family School Initiative.

