

Disability Resources Team

Joseph W. O'Neill

1993 to Present, Coordinator of Disability Resources



Joe O'Neill has been the coordinator of Disability Resources at MassBay since 1996. His past roles have included working with diverse student populations and the full scope of disability issues - In learning environments ranging from a Native American Indian School on the Colville Indian Reservation in the Pacific Northwest; to residential treatment centers for students with learning, behavioral, and emotional disabilities throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; to the Landmark Prep School in Beverly, Massachusetts; to both rural and inner city schools. He has also worked as a daily newspaper reporter in and around Washington, D.C. He has presented at professional conferences throughout the U.S. Joe has a Bachelor Degree in Political Science from the College of the Holy Cross and a Master's Degree in Journalism from Northwestern University in Chicago. In addition to his role as coordinator, Joe has served the MassBay community as chair of Faculty Governance, President of the MassBay Professional Association, and as a member of a

host of committees aimed at making the learning community more welcoming, more accessible, more inclusive, more affordable, and more successful for all who teach and learn here. **Office: 216A (Wellesley) Phone: 781-239-2626. Email: Joneill@massbay.edu**

Ellen DiMarzo

2012 to Present, Disability Specialist for Assistive Technology



Ellen Dimarzo is MassBay's fulltime Disability Specialist for Assistive Technology. Ellen has previously worked with students with disabilities at Assumption College, Clark University, and Worcester State College. Ellen works to make MassBay accessible to all students, by having assistive software available to all students throughout the Framingham and Wellesley campuses, and by providing alternative texts to all students who are blind or have language-based learning disabilities. Ellen works to provide all students who are deaf or hard of hearing with American Sign Language Interpreters or C.A.R.T. reporters in their classes. She has served as a member of the Steering Committee for Faculty Governance, the college wide Educational Technology Committee, the Commencement Committee and in a variety of other roles to enhance the educational experience of students at MassBay. Ellen graduated from Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts with a Bachelor Degree in Human Services and Rehabilitation Studies, as well as a

Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. **Office: 120H (Framingham) Phone: 508-270-4286. Email: Edimarzo@massbay.edu**

Phoebe Bustamante

2016 to Present, Coordinator of Transitional Scholars Program



Phoebe Bustamante joined MassBay in 2016 as an Educational Coach in the Transitional Scholars Program. In addition, she worked as an Academic Counselor advising new students at Orientation. In 2018, she started as the Coordinator of the Transitional Scholars Program, a highly acclaimed, inclusive transition program for students with developmental disabilities. Prior to joining MassBay, Phoebe taught in the Boston Public Schools in inclusive classrooms and was dual-licensed in English and Special Education. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Providence College and a Juris Doctor from Tulane Law School. As Coordinator, Phoebe manages all aspects of the Transitional Scholars Program as well as supporting students and Ed Coaches to help students achieve their academic and transition goals. **Office: 2017 (Wellesley) Phone: 781-239-2625. Email: pbustamante@massmay.edu**

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Lisa Lydon

2017 to Present, Disability Specialist



Lisa Lydon joined MassBay in 2017 as a Disability Specialist in the Academic Achievement Center. She has previously worked with Disability Resources through her role as Academic Advisor and Testing Coordinator at Worcester State University. Prior to this, she worked for over a decade as a Resident Director at several colleges in Massachusetts. She graduated from Framingham State College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fine Arts, and from Endicott College with a Master of Science Degree in Education of Arts in Learning. In addition to her work with Disability Resources, Lisa is a very creative artist who loves design, sewing, cake decorating and other creative media. **Disability Resources: Room 216 (Wellesley) Phone: 781-239-2234. Email: Llydon@massbay.edu**

Whitney Bowler

2016 to Present, Disability Specialist



Whitney Bowler joined MassBay in 2016 as the Coordinator of the highly acclaimed and successful Transitional Scholars Program, where she facilitated the inclusion of students with disabilities from area high schools to MassBay college courses, and coordinated college learning and disability services. She became a Disability Specialist in 2016, following the birth of her daughter. Prior to joining MassBay, Whitney worked as a Transition Guidance Counselor at the Learning Prep School in Newton. She was a School Guidance Counselor at the elementary, middle, and high school levels for the Arlington Public Schools. Whitney has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH, and a Master of Education Degree in School Counseling from Cambridge College. Whitney is a licensed School Guidance Counselor and loves helping students navigate the transition from high school to the college learning environment. A lifelong athlete, Whitney coached high

school soccer and basketball, and is a passionate fan of the Arlington High Spy Ponders. **Disability Resources: Room 216 (Wellesley) Phone: 781-239-2234. Email: Wbowler@massbay.edu**

Tom Sheehan

2018 to Present, Disability Specialist



Tom Sheehan came to MassBay in 2018 after a long and distinguished career as a Guidance Counselor at Newton North High School. His vast experience with academic accommodations and issues of transition from high school to college have made him a valuable asset to students with disabilities on both the Wellesley Hills and Framingham campuses. Tom is a licensed Secondary School Counselor. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Services from the University of California at Berkeley and his Master of Science Degree in Education and Counseling from Northeastern University. He enjoys working with the diverse student population at MassBay. **Disability Resources Room 216 (Wellesley) Phone: 781-239-2234. Email: Tsheehan@massbay.edu**

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Haralie Alpert

2015 to Present, Disability Specialist and Educational Coach



Haralie came to MassBay in 2015 as an Educational Coach in the Transitional Scholars Program, usually working with individual high school students with developmental disabilities taking their first college courses. She began working as a Disability Specialist during the Summer of 2019, where her vast experience and education proved to be immediately beneficial throughout the office on a wide range of success-oriented initiatives. She has worked as an Occupational and Low Vision Therapist in the Wellesley Public Schools. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Queens College in New York, a Master of Education from UCL and a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from Boston University. She enjoys swimming, hiking and music. **Disability Resources. Room 216 (Wellesley) Phone: 781-239-2234. Email: halert@massbay.edu**

Mindy Elias

2002 to Present, Disability Specialist

Mindy Elias joined the department as a Disability Specialist in 2002. She previously worked as a Special Education Teacher and Team Chairperson at both the elementary and secondary levels in the public schools. Over the years, Mindy has provided incoming students with a caring and supportive learning environment as they transition to College, through graduation and beyond. Mindy brings to Disability Resources her expertise, her vast experience, and an empathetic ability to connect with MassBay's diverse student and faculty populations. She works closely and collaboratively with the faculty and staff to promote student success, as well as to increase understanding of disability, accessibility, and transitional issues. Mindy assists students in selecting classes and deciding upon the appropriate course load each semester. Additionally, she assists students to gain a better understanding of their individual learning styles, to develop better study and test taking skills, and to promote strong self-advocacy skills. A large population of the students on the Framingham campus have chosen a career in the Health Sciences. Over the past seventeen years, Mindy has nurtured, assisted, and guided many of these individuals in both the academic and clinical components of their particular programs. Along with the faculty, she has helped prepare them for the challenges of the ever-changing health care industry. Mindy has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education and Psychology from Syracuse University and a Master of Science Degree from the University of Rochester in Learning Disorders. **Disability Resources: Room 306 (Framingham) Phone: 508-270-4267. Email: Mindyelias@massbay.edu**

Linda Strayhorn

2001 to Present, Administrative Assistant, Peer Tutoring Center, Testing Center

Linda Strayhorn has been a highly visible and often critical support to the success of hundreds of students with disabilities during the past 18 years at MassBay. Students are frequently drawn to Linda's personal, caring approach and her professional commitment, whether she is coordinating peer-tutoring services on the Framingham Campus or helping to arrange necessary accommodations, such as classroom note-takers, ASL Interpreters, or CART Reporters. While there has been predictable turnover among faculty and staff over the years, Linda has remained a highly visible, stable and powerful advocate for students. Students trust her, because they know she cares. Linda is there to listen and advise when students are frustrated or feel like dropping out. She encourages persistence and helps students to look for solutions – in their academic (and sometimes in their personal) lives. Linda earned her Master of Science Degree in Critical Thinking at U.Mass Boston, and she demonstrates a special joy and commitment to working with students who are English Language Learners. Engaged throughout the Framingham Campus, Linda initiated periodic Pot Luck Lunches that are highly successful in bringing together faculty and staff from all of the different academic disciplines and work areas. She is one of those rare individuals who supports the College and its students in multiple settings -- in the Library, in the Reading and Writing Center, in the Math and Science Center, in the Testing and Peer Tutoring centers, as well as her work in Disability Resources. **Peer Tutoring and Testing Center: Room 307 (Framingham) Phone: 508-270-4213. Email: Lstrayhorn@massbay.edu**