



# NTCC BUSINESS CLUB

## Travel Study Newsletter

### Boston-2024



"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

- Benjamin Franklin

## *Experiencing the Financial District*

### **The Boston Federal Reserve Bank**

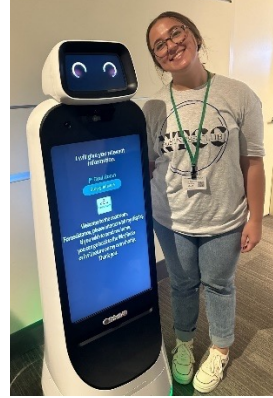
The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston closed all tours after the COVID 19 Pandemic, but students learned the power of relationships as former business student connections led to not only a tour, but an individualized educational experience of this critical part of the US economy. Specifically, the students were treated to a lecture by renowned Senior Economist and Policy Advisor with the New England Public Policy Center, Dr. Mary Burke, as well as Dr. Vaishali Garga, Economist within the Boston Federal Reserve Research Department. Both speakers earned a Ph.D. in Economics from Brown University and are well-published in the world of economics and public policy. The students heard details of the structure, function and daily activities that occur within the Federal Reserve Banking System. Specifically discussed was the critical role of monetary policy in the U.S. economy including details related to current national economic policy goals for employment and inflation. Further discussion points included the mechanism of adjusting interest rates to reach national goals as well as the current state of the U.S. economy. Students were allowed to ask questions and receive feedback as well as discuss possible careers within the banking system.



### *The Mission of the NTCC Business Club:*

Through participation in the NTCC Business Club, students are provided with unique opportunities to develop their managerial and leadership skills, participate in team activities and serve others, improve communicative and interactive skills, and relate their classroom learning to local, national and global business.





## **Fidelity Investments**

The flagship Fidelity Investments office and headquarters is located in Boston and again students learned the value of relationships as we were able to leverage those and organize a private tour of the facilities. The visit started with a tour of the state-of-the-art dining hall where they serve ice cream between 2-3 on Thursdays! The students loved it.

The next stop was the Fidelity Center for Applied Technology. There students were greeted by the Fidelity Way Finder Robot, CLOi who personally escorted students to the restrooms and lockers where they could leave their things. They test and evaluate the newest technologies before they are deployed to the public. Part of this involves the up-and-coming usage of Artificial Intelligence. Students were introduced to "Katalina" a conversational digital avatar that was developed at Fidelity and is being used for portions of new employee training. They interacted with "Katalina" and were asked to provide for feedback and recommendations on ways to improve her.

Students were also able to visit the Fidelity patent office where over 300 US Patents have been issued to Fidelity employees to date. They stressed the importance of continued innovation and the value they place on their employees having time and resources to invent and create. In addition, they provided a lecture relating to careers and internships at Fidelity and encouraged our students to reach for the stars. They followed up with email links to internship applications. It is a great place to work!





# Serving the Community

## Greater Boston Food Bank

The NTCC Business Club mission is not only to assist students in relating their classroom learning to national and global business, but also to learn to work effectively as a team and recognize the importance of giving back to their communities. In support of this mission, while in Boston, students volunteered at the Greater Boston Food Bank, the largest hunger relief organization in New England. Last year alone this organization distributed over 87 million meals. Students and faculty worked for 3 hours packing 280 food boxes each filled with food staples and healthy fruits and vegetables. Upon completion, students and faculty had packaged over 8,000 lbs of food which equated to 6,960 meals. While there, the students were also educated on the issue of hunger in NE and across the country and were proud to have been a part of helping fulfill the national and global mission of ending hunger.



# Innovation Square

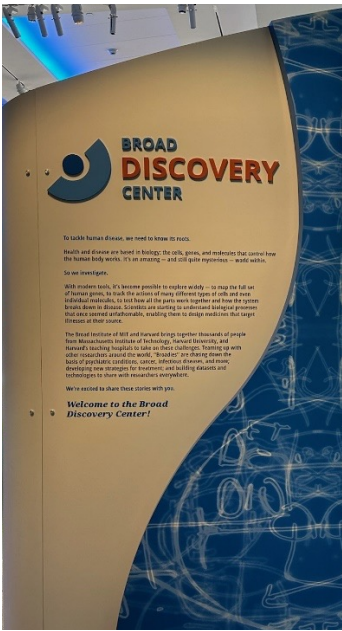
## Innovation Trail

Students enjoyed beautiful weather while in Boston and were able to see the sites where many tech entrepreneurs began their companies. Many are now some of the largest corporations in the world. For example, students learned that Boston was the site of the development of the telephone in the 19th century, but it is also home to the founder of today's android phone.



Additional notable sites found in Innovation Square included MIT's CSAIL (Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Library) where one of the world's most notable researchers and founder of the world wide web is still working! This lab is the largest on-campus laboratory for Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence in the world. While there, students were able to interact with CSAIL's Flow which is an augmented-reality experience where their specific motions and movements were incorporated in real-time into a variety of image processing simulations. The Broad and Whitehead Institutes were also on this tour and are home to many of the top research scientists in the world. Currently these institutes are working on genetic decoding of DNA and are world leaders in genetics research.





Also on this tour, was Moderna Pharmaceuticals where the first COVID vaccine was developed and Draper Laboratories where the first guidance computer was developed and ultimately used to lead the Apollo spacecraft to and from the moon. This company continues today as the leader in guidance, navigation and control technologies with specific focus on national security and space exploration.

Another large company on this tour was Akamai Technologies. Akamai Technologies is a delivery company that provides content delivery network (CDN), cybersecurity, and cloud services. It currently operates a worldwide network of servers and generates annual revenue of over \$3.5 billion. In combining coursework with real world experiences, the accounting students were required to analyze the financial statements for Amakai, including the Income and Balance Sheet Statements as well as cash flows. In addition, they were required to compute and analyze efficiency, profitability, and liquidity ratios as part of their coursework.



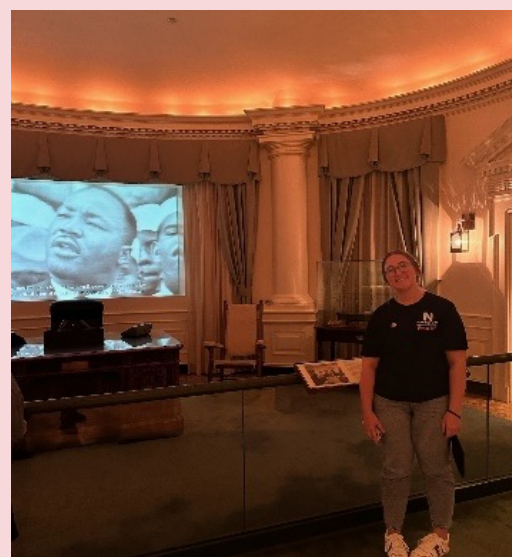
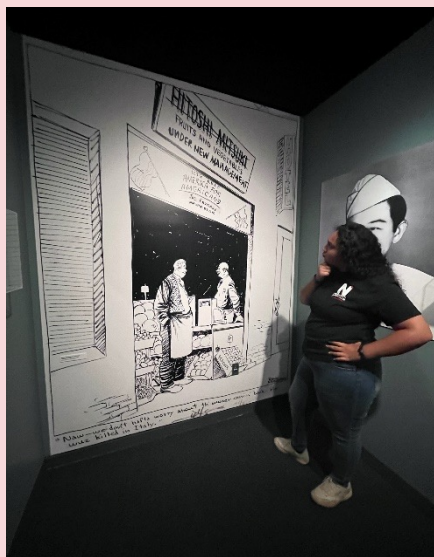
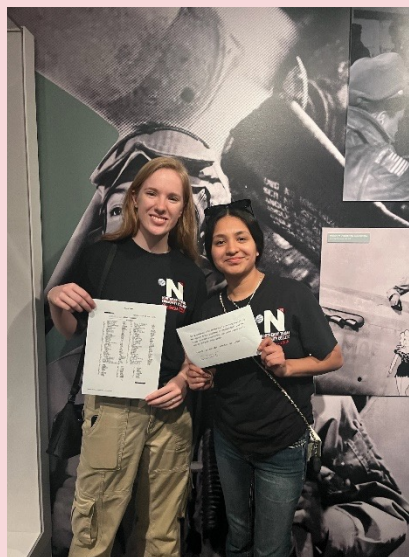
## Education

### Harvard Business School

Students were taken on an enlightening tour of the Harvard Business School which happened to be on commencement day for Harvard students. This allowed for unique interactions and even help in picture taking for graduates! Although there were protests occurring on the main campus, the Business School was open, and students were able to enjoy the full informational and fun tour. They learned about fields of study in Business, the history of the campus, and were able to visit the largest business library in the world, the Baker Library.







## History & The Economy

### JFK Museum

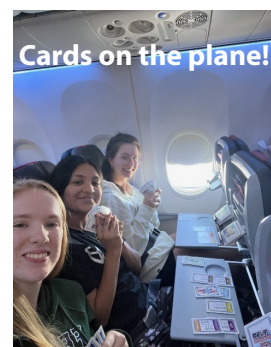
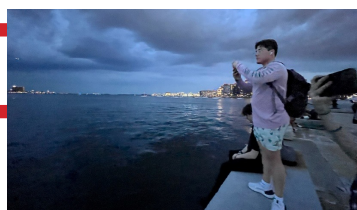
The JFK Museum tour was an excellent educational and informative experience for the students. During this visit, students were able to stroll through exhibits showcasing the 1960 campaign trail, the civil rights movement, the space race as well as spend time reflecting on history over a piece of the Berlin Wall. Furthermore, students were able to better understand the nature of the economy during JFK's time in office which occurred during a major recession. These issues laid the groundwork for his goals to stimulate the economy and pursue legislation to aid the unemployed, decrease taxes, increase the minimum wage, and create policies to energize business and industry. This was a great opportunity for students to connect the dots between their studies in economics to a time in history which dealt with many of the issues discussed in class.



## Trip Adventures

### Travel Time

Students were required to learn the subway system before the trip and they were our guides from Logan Airport to the hotel. They did great!





# *Professional Dinner*

Students were able to use their dining etiquette training (provided by our very own Ms. Marguerite Morris) at The Chart House!





# Scavenger Hunt

Students completed an online scavenger hunt while in Boston. Items on the list included financial and educational landmarks as well as some fun things!



Original Location of the Boston Stock Exchange! Now the headquarters of the Boston Globe is located in the heart of downtown Boston!



VIP Red Sox Tour



One of the Red Sox' biggest fans!



Enjoying the game!



Boston Public Garden: The bench from the blockbuster movie "Good Will Hunting"



Beautiful day for a boat ride!



A little Boston Cream Pie!



Payphone fun!



King's Church!



Frog Pond!



# Thanks

Many thanks to our business sponsors, alumni, mentors and friends for the financial support and professional guidance that made this trip a success!

Cox Logistics  
Raymond James-Mr. Frank Durrum III  
Texas Heritage Bank-Mr. Chad Elledge  
First National Bank – Pittsburg-Mr. Laurencio Velazquez  
TigerTX LLC-Mr. Donny Richards  
Ms. Frankie Cooper-Alliance Bank-Mount Vernon  
Gooseneck Graphics  
Best Fender  
Dale's Auto Repair  
McKelvey Enterprises  
Roach Law Firm  
Raw Iron Gym  
Hawkins Restaurant

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan & Christine Clemmons  
Mr. Bradon Wilkes  
Mr. Chaz Curtis  
Mr. William Blanton  
Ms. Aleetha Hayes  
Ms. Marguerite Morris  
Ms. Rocio Rodriguez  
Ms. Cindy Hammonds  
Dr. Jackie Johnston  
Dr. Doug Richey  
Dr. Miles Young

*Special thanks to our NTCC Administration for continuously providing critical leadership to ensure that we hold true to our mission of providing dynamic learning experiences to empower students to succeed!*

## *A few quotes from the students*

*"Getting out of the classroom and into the world of business was very helpful with understanding how the things I've learned in my courses apply to real life situations."*

*"My favorite activity was volunteering at the food bank. It was hard work, but packaging all of that food, knowing that it would go to people and families in need, was very impactful. I see myself volunteering at food banks in the future."*

*"After this trip I feel so much more comfortable traveling alone. I have traveled alone before but being in the city and having a sense of freedom did give me more confidence to travel without my family."*