



HARVARD Kennedy School

**RAPPAPORT INSTITUTE**  
for Greater Boston

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S RAPPAPORT INSTITUTE FOR GREATER BOSTON  
ANNOUNCES 2022 RAPPAPORT URBAN SCHOLARS**

*Massachusetts State Representative and City of Boston Immigrant Advancement Official to  
Receive Full Scholarships to Attend Harvard Kennedy School*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 27, 2022

**CAMBRIDGE** – Harvard University's Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston announced today that Massachusetts State Representative Tram Nguyen and Program Manager for the City of Boston Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement Carol Leon have been named the 2022 Rappaport Institute Urban Scholars.

Since 1981, the Rappaport Urban Scholars Program has provided full tuition scholarships to more than 30 elected and appointed officials from Greater Boston to attend the Harvard Kennedy School's mid-career master in public administration program.

"The Rappaport Urban Scholars Program was created to inspire fresh ideas and contribute to the excellence of Greater Boston's public sector while advancing the education of the area's emerging public policy leaders," said **Rappaport Institute Executive Director Kathryn Carlson**. "We are thrilled to welcome Rep. Nguyen and Carol Leon to the Urban Scholars Program and thank them for their dedication to and passion for public policy in Greater Boston."

State Representative Tram Nguyen serves the 18th Essex District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives where she pushes for laws that address issues of racial and economic justice and protect the rights of the most vulnerable populations. The first of her family to attend college, Rep. Nguyen earned a bachelor's degree from Tufts University and a juris doctor from Northeastern University School of Law. Before joining the House of Representatives, Rep. Nguyen worked as a legal aid attorney for Greater Boston Legal Services, advocating for domestic violence survivors, workers, seniors, veterans, and children. Rep. Nguyen is the first Vietnamese American elected to the House of Representatives, the first Asian American on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, and the first Asian American woman to serve as vice chair of a committee.

Carol Leon previously served as the Programs Manager at the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA), where she oversaw MOIA's programs and led community outreach and engagement initiatives. In 2020, Carol developed [Immigrants Lead Boston](#), a new civic engagement program for emerging immigrant leaders. Prior to this role, Carol served as MOIA's Outreach and Community Engagement Coordinator and led Boston's Citizenship Day, community legal clinics, and a 2016 conversation series between immigrant communities and City leaders. She first joined MOIA in 2015 through AmeriCorps VISTA. Carol graduated from

Suffolk University with a bachelor's degree in international affairs and French and aspires to continue making the City of Boston a welcoming place for all.

Elected officials from throughout Greater Boston (all communities in Suffolk, Middlesex, Norfolk, Essex, Franklin, Plymouth and Bristol counties) and appointed officials currently working for the City of Boston are eligible for the scholarship. Candidates must apply and be accepted to the Kennedy School's mid-career master in public administration program and also must demonstrate an interest in urban and metropolitan issues, a capacity for leadership, and a continuing commitment to contribute to the well-being of Greater Boston. Elected officials have the option of attending the Kennedy School as half-time students for two years. Appointed officials must be full-time students and must have a letter from the Mayor of Boston granting them a sabbatical leave. After graduation, appointed officials must return to public service in the Greater Boston area for a minimum of two years. To learn more about the Urban Scholar's Program and past scholars, visit the [Rappaport Institute website](#).

### **About the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston**

The Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston works to improve the governance of Greater Boston by strengthening connections among the region's scholars, students, and civic leaders. A university-wide entity housed at the Harvard Kennedy School and affiliated with the School's Taubman Center for State and Local Government, the Institute pursues this mission by promoting emerging leaders, producing new ideas, and stimulating informed discussion. The Institute was founded and funded by the Phyllis and Jerome Lyle Rappaport Charitable Foundation which promotes emerging leaders in Greater Boston. Visit the [Rappaport Institute website](#) to learn more.

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