



## Summer Search Boston Names Hermese Velasquez Executive Director

*Youth development non-profit announces experienced leader and Summer Search alumna to lead organization*

**(Boston, MA) December 22, 2016**—Summer Search, a national youth development and college success organization, today announces Hermese Velasquez of Boston, a Summer Search Alumna and Alumni Board Chair, as its next Executive Director. Velasquez joins Summer Search Boston as it embarks on expanding its programming to reach up to 475 Greater Boston high school students by 2019.

“We could not be happier to have Hermes join Summer Search Boston as Executive Director,” said Board Chair Leslie Riedel. “As a Summer Search alumna with a business administration background, Hermese possesses the multiple talents we know are essential for success at Summer Search: strategic leadership, relationship management/fundraising, cultural competence, and commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. We fully expect that she will hit the ground running.”

Velasquez has worked as a nonprofit manager and community leader in the Boston area for several years, and most recently served as IT Project Manager with Road Scholar, a non-profit educational travel firm. With advising roles at Associate Fund Grant Committee and Lewis Family Foundation Advisory Council, she is a community leader dedicated to building community cohesion and helping students from Boston pursue college dreams.

Velasquez has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a Business Analysis Professional Certificate from George Washington University.

“As a product of Summer Search, I am an example of what is possible when students from low-income backgrounds are encouraged to look beyond their circumstances,” Velasquez said. “I am thrilled to have the chance to lead this organization as it continues to grow to serve more of Greater Boston’s future leaders. Summer Search changed my life and the lives of so many others. My mission as Boston’s Executive Director will be to inspire others to support Summer Search everyday so that many more lives can be transformed.”

**ABOUT SUMMER SEARCH:** Summer Search is a national youth development and college

success organization with a mission to help low-income students become college educated leaders who give back to their families and communities. Summer Search Boston serves over 1,000 high school and college students annually, who come from greater Boston's highest need neighborhoods.

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