



For Immediate Release

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New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft calls with special \$100,000 gift for Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology

Boston, MA—Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT) President Anthony Benoit recently got an unexpected call from Robert Kraft. Kraft was calling to let him know that he was providing BFIT with a \$100,000 surprise gift. The gift will be used over the next two years to provide gap scholarships to first-year BFIT students struggling to pay for a college education.

“Giving hope to those who may not have hope is what it is all about,” says Kraft, Chairman and CEO of The Kraft Group and owner of the New England Patriots. “My hope is that by making gap scholarships available at Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology we are providing Boston’s youth a chance at economic mobility while also meeting the skills shortage in Massachusetts.”

Since 1908, BFIT has been training local young people for the fields that drive the region’s economy by offering affordable college programs that prepare students for technology jobs in growing fields.

“This is a game changer for young people in Boston,” says BFIT President Anthony Benoit. “Thanks to the generosity of Robert Kraft, the dream of a college education can come true for many deserving students who otherwise would not have been able to afford it.”

The college is pushing hard to close the gap for as many students as possible, so matching gifts are encouraged to multiply the benefit of the Kraft grant. Matching gifts play a starring role in the history of the school, which was founded in 1908 when Andrew Carnegie made an investment inspired by the direct bequest from Benjamin Franklin. Carnegie and Franklin saw the need to develop the skills needed to grow Boston’s economic power.

“With financial support from our friends in the Boston philanthropic community, many more young people will earn a degree and qualify for rewarding careers, uplifting themselves, their families, and their communities,” says Benoit.

BFIT students graduate with practical experience in their field of study and “power skills” that are of immediate value in the workforce like teamwork, critical thinking, and professionalism. About 90 percent of BFIT graduates either continue right into more advance education or enter the workforce shortly after graduation in a variety of high-demand technical jobs in the region.

About Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology

Founded in 1908 directly from a bequest left in Benjamin Franklin’s will, Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology is a non-profit, technical college with approximately 500 students in Boston’s South End. The college offers certificate, associate, and bachelor’s degree programs leading to careers in Automotive Technology, Computer Technology, Biomedical Engineering Technology, Construction Management, Electronics Engineering Technology, Health Information Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Building Technology & Design, HVAC&R, Electrical Technology, Eye Health Technology, and Technology Business and Management. BFIT is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Visit www.bfit.edu for more information.