



CONTACT: Christine L. Armstrong, 646-644-5037

Endicott College and Gloucester400™ Partner to Collect and Preserve the City's Fascinating Oral History

"Our People, Our Stories" to Come to Life in the Words of the People Who Built Gloucester

Gloucester, MA – February 14, 2020 – Gloucester Celebration Corporation (GCC), the official organizers of Gloucester's 400th anniversary celebration, and Endicott College have signed an agreement to collaborate on collection and preservation of Gloucester's oral history. As a result of this agreement, the Endicott's Center for Oral History will work to facilitate the collection of Gloucester's stories by its citizens and assist in laying the foundation for a successful project.

As part of the collaboration, faculty members Dr. Michael Kilburn and Dr. Lara Salahi will co-lead a series of three workshops for community members interested in helping capture the City's narratives for posterity. In these workshops, Drs. Kilburn and Salahi will help the community define compelling topics on which the project will focus and identify prospective interviewees. Professor Kilburn will also conduct the first two project interviews in a live demonstration of best practices. These interviews will be taped and transcribed for inclusion in a commemorative oral history book that will be made available to the community in 2023.

"Our people, our stories" is more than a tagline. This phrase sits at the heart of Gloucester's 400th-anniversary celebration. It is hoped that, with the assistance of Drs. Kilburn and Salahi, the people of Gloucester will successfully bring this theme to life through the telling of the stories that represent the city's 400-year history.

Gloucester's oral history project is underwritten by a portion of the proceeds of a state grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, that was secured through the dedicated efforts of State Representative Ann Margaret Ferrante and State Representative Bruce Tarr.

Gloucester400 tri-chairperson Bruce Tobey commented that, "Our entire team is grateful to Endicott College for its willingness to partner with us, and to our legislative delegation for their hard work in securing the financial resources that will fuel our efforts. We are looking forward to producing a powerful anthology that honors Gloucester's past, reflects on its present, and looks ahead to its future."

Gloucester's 400th Anniversary: *Our People, Our Stories*[™]

Gloucester, Massachusetts, America's oldest seaport, will be "400 years young" in 2023. To celebrate its past, honor its people, and welcome its promising future, the city has begun preparations for celebrating this historic milestone and organizing the year-long celebration of its anniversary. The theme of the quadricentennial is *Gloucester: Our People, Our Stories*[™] and focuses on celebrating Gloucester's history through the stories of the people who lived, sacrificed, rejoiced, worked, built, and innovated together – at times risking everything -- since 1623. Gloucester Celebration Corporation is the organization established to guide the efforts to create a momentous city-wide celebration among its people and businesses and facilitate an exceptional year of festivities.

To provide the latest information about Gloucester400's many activities and opportunities, Gloucester Celebration Corporation has launched a website that will be continuously updated with news, fun, and useful information. Visit www.gloucesterma400.org for more information.

###

TRADEMARKS: "Our People, Our Stories[™]," Gloucester400[™], and Gloucester 400[™] are trademarks and/or copyrights of Gloucester Celebration Corporation. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners.