

# A RECORD 60,000 APPLY TO BU

**Adding to surge:  
more applicants of color**

and says, ‘Our children are being led astray, and we have to take action.’”

While quieter local censorship attempts sometimes succeed, he says, well-publicized proposals like the one in Arkansas rarely do. In fact, they often backfire. “That is the irony of censorship,” he says. “As you know, the best way to best-sellerdom is to be ‘banned in Boston.’”

The Zinn Education Project was launched in 2007 after Holtzman, a retired tech executive, stumbled upon *You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train*, a documentary about Zinn's life and work. The film brought back fond memories, he says, of attending Zinn's BU lectures, debating issues with him after class, and covering his activism for the student newspaper, the *Daily Free Press*. “He was an extraordinary guy, and I really gravitated toward him,” Holtzman says.

He emailed Zinn to reintroduce himself and proposed they embark on some type of social project together. “We went through a whole list of ideas we could focus on—prison reform, immigration reform,” says Holtzman. They quickly decided they could make the largest impact by focusing on education, and Zinn connected Holtzman to two nonprofits, Rethinking Schools and Teaching for Change. The organizations now coordinate ZEP, focusing primarily on developing and promoting lesson plans and teaching activities that teachers can download for free from the ZEP website ([zinnedproject.org](http://zinnedproject.org)). The site has around 70,000 registrants, and ZEP estimates that its materials reach over a million students around the globe each year, including many in Arkansas. **CORINNE STEINBRENNER**



BU saw increases in the number of African American and Hispanic applicants this year.

The University has broken the 60,000 mark for freshman applicants for the first time, with students of color driving the surge.

Kelly Walter, associate vice president for enrollment and executive director of admissions, says BU received 60,817 applications for the Class of 2021, which aims to enroll 3,400 freshmen. The number of applications is 6 percent greater than last year's applicant pool.

“BU is the first institution in New England to exceed 60,000 fall

freshman applications,” says Walter, adding that she knows of only one private school in the country, New York University, with a larger applicant pool. (Some public universities receive applications in the six digits.) Data for applicant numbers are shared among universities and are available from other sources, such as the federal government. The bigger pool mainly comes from US applicants, “and in particular underrepresented minority students,” she says. A total of 4,325 African Americans applied, representing 7 percent of the applicant pool and a 15 percent jump over last year's percentage of black applicants. Hispanic and Latino applicants, at 6,543, represent approximately 11 percent of the applicant pool, and mark an 11 percent increase over last year. Walter believes that new recruitment efforts played a key role. “We expanded our multicultural student outreach and access initiatives,” she says, with BU representatives visiting 105 community-based organizations. BU added a second contingent of students from California's Bay Area to its Posse Foundation scholars, awarding scholarships to high-achieving urban high schoolers. **RICH BARLOW**

## TRUE GRID

Much has changed at Boston University in the past 20 years. The number of graduates rose, from 2,459 in 1997 to 3,302 in May 2017, and the number of majors available to BU undergraduates climbed, from 428 to 506. Student interests have also changed, as seen here. (All numbers refer to undergrads only.)

May 2017 graduates majoring in computer science	90	May 2017 graduates majoring in English	51	May 2017 graduates majoring in journalism	83
May 1997 graduates majoring in computer science	31	May 1997 graduates majoring in English	89	May 1997 graduates majoring in journalism	87