

**North Bennet Street School
Media Fact Sheet**

ABOUT

As America's first trade school, North Bennet Street School (NBSS) is internationally recognized for its hands-on training programs that prepare students for meaningful careers in traditional trades. For more than 140 years, its exceptional programs, expert faculty, and supportive community have fostered curiosity, technical mastery, and a commitment to excellence.

NBSS offers nine career training programs across a range of crafts and trades. In addition, the School provides 180+ short classes each year, welcoming students of all skill levels to explore their chosen discipline.

Founded in 1881 as a settlement house for immigrants, NBSS has a long history of providing transformative education and training to individuals from all backgrounds. The School remains committed to community engagement and regularly develops youth programs, educational partnerships, preservation projects, exhibitions, and a range of public events.

WHY

At a time when many feel disconnected—from their work, their communities, and even themselves—NBSS offers something deeply grounding: the chance to engage head, heart, and hands; to create something real and lasting; and to share in a purposeful, collaborative experience with others. In a fast-paced, digital world, the appeal of making things by hand remains deeply personal—offering not only long-term opportunity, but also purpose, pride, and a true sense of belonging.

HOW

NBSS provides an intensive, supportive learning environment led by expert faculty who are leaders in their fields. The School fosters a culture of care, rigor, and excellence across its international renowned career training programs:

- Bookbinding: Creating, restoring, and preserving books and archival materials
- Carpentry: Residential construction and renovation with a focus on hand and machine tool use
- Cabinet & Furniture Making: Woodworking rooted in traditional design and joinery techniques
- Jewelry Making & Repair: Fabricating and repairing jewelry using classic and modern methods
- Locksmithing & Security Technology: Mechanical and electronic access systems for home and commercial use
- Piano Technology (Basic & Advanced): Tuning, maintaining, restoring, and rebuilding pianos
- Preservation Carpentry: Repairing and replicating architectural elements in historic buildings
- Violin Making & Repair: Making and maintaining bowed string instruments to the highest standards
- Community Education: Short-term classes that broaden interest and access while developing hands-on skills

WHO

NBSS students come from around the world and reflect a wide range of backgrounds: career changers and veterans, artists and engineers, office professionals and tradespeople, high school graduates and those with advanced degrees. More than 3,000 alumni worldwide carry forward the NBSS tradition in their work and communities. In addition, the School's expert faculty, guest instructors, and program advisors are nationally respected leaders in their trades.

WHERE

The School's home is a 64,000-square-foot facility in Boston's historic North End, where it was founded nearly 150 years ago.

CONNECT

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CONTACT

Kevin Derrick, Director of Marketing & Engagement | marketing@nbss.edu | 617 227 0155 x180

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