

THE HIGH TECH AGENDA

MASSACHUSETTS HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

As I See It – Chris Anderson



Voters in Massachusetts and across the country have a particularly well-honed capacity for befuddling election prognosticators. This year that was especially true. Experts had Hillary Clinton's path to 270 all but a lock. But key "blue states" shocked pundits and handed Donald Trump an unexpected victory—unexpected to everyone except Donald Trump. My quick take was included among a series of "reactions" appearing in the Boston Business Journal on November 9 and can be viewed [here](#).

At home, the most expensive ballot question in state history resulted in another unexpected result. The fact that more than 60% of the voters in Massachusetts rejected expanding public charter school access (Question 2) to tens of thousands of students stuck on waiting lists reminds me that voters in the Bay State easily differentiate how they vote on issues (public charter schools and legalizing marijuana) and on people running for office (though not on the ballot, Gov. Baker remains one of the most popular governors in the nation).

It's pretty clear that various interest groups in Massachusetts will continue to accelerate their push for policies that will damage the Commonwealth's competitive position and business environment. The Council, however, remains committed to identifying and advocating for policies that will enhance Massachusetts' prospects for economic growth and expanding opportunities for all. The Council will use MATTERS to help assess policy proposals that emerge during the 2017-2018 legislative session. In particular, we'll look at how they impact the "conditions for success" necessary to strengthen our diverse tech economy in an increasingly competitive national and global landscape—much of which offer lower costs and increasingly high quality talent options. We invite you to participate in one or more of our policy committees (mentioned below) to help us support our talent and cost competitiveness mission priorities.

Council Hosts New England Tech Vets Fall Forum

On November 17, the Council convened more than sixty leaders from the veteran employment community at the New England Tech Vets 2016 Fall Forum. The forum was hosted by the Kraft Group at Gillette Stadium and featured remarks from Governor Charlie Baker and Francisco Ureña, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Governor Baker announced the Administration's intention to work with the Council in 2017 to explore the development of veteran-friendly employer education and certification program. "The Commonwealth is already leveraging the New England Tech Vets platform at our One-Stop Career Centers to help Massachusetts veterans connect with employers and immediate employment opportunities," said Governor Baker. "We look forward to working

MISSION STATEMENT

The *High Tech Agenda* keeps the High Tech Council's members and partners up to date on its pro-growth advocacy concerning state and federal public policies and programs in support of its mission.

The goal of the Massachusetts High Technology Council is to help make Massachusetts the world's most attractive place in which to live and work, and in which to create, operate, and grow high technology businesses. Read our Mission Statement at mhtc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MHTC Government Relations Committee Meeting

**December 7 –
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

Location: MHTC offices – Waltham, MA

The Government Relations Committee is a forum for public policy and government relations professionals from member companies to network with peers and colleagues and share intelligence and ideas about pending state and federal issues of common interest. It also serves as an important mechanism to inform and support MHTC's policy and advocacy agenda and strategy.

Kindly RSVP via calendar response or email to [Mark Gallagher](mailto:Mark.Gallagher@mhtc.org).

with New England Tech Vets, the Home Base Program, members of the veteran community and committed employers to serve our veterans and help employers access this pool of incredibly talented and promising employees.”



Susan Fallon-Brown, co-chair of the Council’s Talent, Workforce and Education Committee, and VP of Global Strategy and Business Development at Monster and Greg Smith, President of Monster’s Military.com presented an overview of the unique resources available to veterans and employers via [New England Tech Vets](#) and Military.com and shared highlights from the [2016 Monster/Military.com Veterans Talent Index](#).

[Home Base Program](#) Executive Director Brigadier General (ret.) Jack Hammond and members of the Home Base clinical staff provided attendees with an overview of the program and key information for employers about military culture and panels of veteran employees and veteran friendly employers, including Council members Raytheon Company, Oasis Systems, and the Kraft Group shared best practices for employers and identified compelling opportunities to engage and retain veteran employees in the workforce.

The High Tech Council and our members believe we all have a special obligation to our veterans in recognition of their service to this country. But there is also a real practical benefit and opportunity for technology employers. Increasingly, our veteran population is equipped with extensive technical skills and leadership qualities. That’s why the Council partnered with Monster and the Home Base program to create New England Tech Vets as a unique way to educate employers about veteran talent, connect skilled veterans with available employment opportunities and provide veterans and their employers with services to help heal the invisible wounds of war. Learn how your organization can get involved in New England Tech Vets by contacting Julie Champion (julie@mhtc.org).

Council Co-hosts Department of Homeland Security Forum on November 30

Last May, the Council co-hosted an invitation-only event with Dr. Reggie Brothers, Undersecretary for Science and Technology at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). That event, focused on a “Smart Cities” roundtable, kicked off a sustained level of engagement between and among DHS and members of the Massachusetts technology and innovation community.



On November 30 a select group of Council members and partners participated in a follow-on event “Preparing for a Smart and Resilient Future: Ideation Workshop on First Responder Capabilities Gaps”, featuring Dr. Brothers. Senior leaders from DHS and the Council were joined at [CIC Boston](#) by representatives from state and local government, research institutions and leaders of our innovation economy. The program was facilitated by the

UPCOMING EVENTS

Company Christmas at Pops

**December 7 –
6:00 PM to 10:00 PM**

Location: Boston Symphony Hall – Boston, MA

A Company Christmas at Pops is a unique holiday gala that celebrates the extraordinary partnership between the corporate community and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Designed specifically for the Boston business community, a Company Christmas at Pops has been proven to be one of the BSO’s most successful events and has become a model for other arts organizations across the country. Funding raised through this event helps support the BSO Education and Community Engagement programs throughout the year. Click [here](#) for event and sponsorship details or please contact [Mary Thompson](#), Director of Corporate Initiatives at Boston Symphony Orchestra.

MHTC Board of Directors Meeting

**December 8 –
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

Location: Dassault Systèmes Americas Corp. – Waltham, MA

This meeting is graciously being hosted by Council member Dassault Systèmes Americas Corp. Attendees are invited to join our host and members of the Council’s Talent, Workforce and Education Committee for a buffet luncheon from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. Please RSVP via calendar response or email to [Julie Champion](#).

MHTC Talent, Workforce and Education Committee Meeting

**December 8 –
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

Location: Dassault Systèmes Americas Corp. – Waltham, MA

The Council’s Talent, Workforce and Education Committee meets regularly to develop and shape the Council’s education and workforce priorities and initiatives and develop highly-usable data and analysis of key talent and education metrics that are relevant to high tech companies.

The December meeting is graciously being hosted by Council member Dassault Systèmes Americas Corp. Attendees are invited to join our host and the Council’s Board of Directors for a luncheon prior to the team meeting from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

Participating members, kindly RSVP via calendar response or email to [Mark Gallagher](#).

leadership of [The MITRE Corporation's Innovation Bridge](#) with support from the Massachusetts Port Authority.

Council Committee Meetings Shaping 2017-2018 Advocacy Agenda

The Council's advocacy agenda is taking shape and interested members are encouraged to attend two important agenda-development meetings to be hosted by Council committees in early December. Participation in all Council committees and attendance at all meetings are open to any interested Council member. Please contact Mark Gallagher (mark@mhtc.org) for additional information or to RSVP to any meeting.

Talent, Workforce and Education Committee

December 8, 2016 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Location: Dassault Systèmes, 175 Wyman Street, Waltham, MA

The Council's Talent, Workforce and Education ("TWE") Committee will meet on December 8 from 1 to 3:00 PM. This meeting will be hosted at Dassault Systèmes' Waltham offices by TWE Committee Co-chair and Council Board member Al Bunshaft, Dassault's Senior Vice President of Global Affairs. Al has also graciously offered to host a Noontime luncheon beforehand with meeting attendees and members of the Council's Board of Directors who will be convening for their quarterly meeting from 10:00 AM to Noon on December 8.

Government Relations Committee

December 7, 2016 from 10:00 AM to Noon

Location: Council's Waltham offices

The Government Relations Committee is a forum for public policy and government relations professionals from member companies to network with peers and colleagues and share intelligence and ideas about pending state and federal issues of common interest. It serves as an important mechanism to inform and support the Council's policy and advocacy agenda and strategy. Designed to complement the work of the Council's other policy teams, the committee adds value for Council members by helping to identify opportunities for the Council to amplify members' own voices on key issues and will enhance the Council's overall effectiveness and impact on policy development

Cost Competitiveness Committee

January (Date and location TBD)

The Council's Cost Competitiveness Committee will convene in late January on a specific date TBD when we will host David Seltz, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission. David will share MHPC's latest data and insights on health care cost drivers and trends in Massachusetts. Watch for a meeting invitation with date and location details in the coming days.

MATTERS Executive Competitiveness Insight Survey Spurs Hearing Invitation

Following our October launch of MATTERS 2.0 and the release of results from our Executive Competitiveness Survey, the chairman of the Massachusetts House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets invited the Council to testify on December 13, 2016 at its hearing to discuss the State's capital spending priorities and its current and planned level of capital spending. At or near the top of the Committee's list is the issue of the state's transportation infrastructure, the issue that also ranked as second highest potential "risk" to business in our survey.

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STEM Connector National Survey on Experiential Learning

The STEM Connector is a national organization that convenes top leaders in STEM fields through initiatives that rapidly connect and leverage the world of STEM and help technology leaders in their efforts to build a STEM pipeline and workforce. STEM Connector is currently conducting a survey of technology and educational leaders to assess experience and needs in providing access to these types of experiential learning experiences (internships, senior capstones, labs, etc.) to students. The survey will help STEM Connector and technology leaders better understand the experiential learning opportunities and challenges from the perspective of educators and employers who must collaborate together to make this happen. Interested Council members from technology employers and educational institutions are encouraged to participate by taking this very brief survey by December 20. The more leaders who complete the survey, the better equipped we will all be to make a difference. [Click here to take the survey.](#)

DATA THAT MATTERS

Massachusetts has the 6th highest electricity costs in the nation.



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