March 26, 2020

Council Leaders Respond to COVID-19

In collaboration with private sector peers, research institutions and public officials, Council leaders are working to identify, execute, and sustain strategies, policies and programs that contribute to a vigorous and impactful response to the COVID-19 global pandemic and while increasing the speed and strength of Massachusetts’ recovery from its economic impacts.

The COVID-19 health crisis and near certainty of a national recession in 2020 has altered some—but not all—of the immediate priorities of the Mass High Tech Council. Our policy and program focus remain the same, but the game plan has shifted to how we collectively respond to—and recover from—this crisis.

Previously scheduled in-person Council events in April, May and June have been postponed. Utilizing online meeting platforms allow us to provide our members with impactful engagement and collaboration opportunities focused on COVID-19 and the Council’s ongoing mission and long-term objectives. On March 18, the Council launched a robust calendar of virtual engagement opportunities for our members focused on COVID-19 and our mission, described more fully in the next section.

COVID-19 Response: MHTC Virtual Roundtable Series

With an unpredictable future ahead, Council leaders quickly planned and launched a strategy to share perspectives and information from subject matter experts to help businesses make the best decisions possible to help ensure employee safety, advance public health strategies and minimize business disruptions.

Our series of virtual roundtables features leaders from the business community, public health sector, health delivery system, and professional services organizations who will share their perspectives and practices on an array of COVID-19-related issues and challenges.

This no-fee series is open to all organizations, not only to members of the Mass. High Tech Council, but...
Recent Roundtables

On March 18 and March 25, the Council hosted our first two virtual roundtables, both focused on “Employer Response” best practices. The March 18th session featured Ed Mackey Executive Vice President - Operations, Boston Scientific; Jonathan Proffitt, VP Global Workforce Solutions, Kronos; Nav Singh, Senior Partner, McKinsey & Co.; and, Ed Whalen, Chief Human Resources Officer, Putnam Investments. On March 25th, we featured insights from Chris Ross, EVP Operations, MilliporeSigma; Eric Snow, SVP Corporate Marketing, PTC; and Diane Young, VP Employee Benefits, PTC.

All virtual roundtable webinars are recorded and you may access those recordings and a schedule of future roundtables in the series on a newly published COVID-19 section of the Council’s website.

Upcoming Roundtables

March 27: Insights from Mass. General Hospital featuring Dr. Peter Slavin, President of Mass. General Hospital and Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Practicing Infectious Disease Physician at Mass. General Hospital and Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Click HERE for more details and to register.

March 31: Mass. Economic Impacts and Response featuring Mike Kennealy, Secretary, Mass. Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development. Click here for more details and to register HERE.

What Leaders are Saying About COVID-19 Response Virtual Roundtables

“The Roundtable event last night was terrific – very well done, informative and helpful! Great job! Keep up the good work!” - Tom Colatosti, CEO, Oasis Systems

“Excellent panel discussion this evening on the COVID-19 response. I enjoyed watching/listening. Thank you for hosting – My colleagues and I here at PTC look forward to being part of future panels and meetings hosted by the Council” - Paul Lenfest, DVP of Central Operations, PTC

“The WebEx conversation was outstanding. It was well-orchestrated and executed allowing the audience to gain information and a sense of community on the crisis. The next roundtables bring in new voices and I’m looking forward to hearing them” - Jen Bride, Global Business Services, Raytheon Company

Council Members Supporting Emergency Supply Hub

The Council urges members to support the Massachusetts Life Sciences Emergency Supply Hub, a critically important initiative launched by our colleagues at MassBio in coordination with the Mass. Health and Hospital Association, the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals and MassMedic. The Supply Hub was created to help coordinate efforts to bring additional supplies and resources to our state’s healthcare institutions so they can continue to test and treat patients with COVID-19.

This is not just for life sciences companies, but anyone who has supplies they can donate. Please consider how your organization may be able to help, specifically in donating lab, testing, and diagnostics supplies,
personal protection equipment (PPE), and medical and scientific expertise needed to combat COVID-19.

Organizations that are able to assist with this effort should fill out this survey to let Supply Hub officials know what you can donate.

**Women in Leadership Initiative: Maintaining Momentum**

The Council’s Women in Leadership Initiative (WIL) is focused on guiding successful efforts to recruit, retain and promote women in leadership across our organizations. Throughout the first quarter of 2020, WIL leaders have continued to advance key priorities, with the support of PTC, our 2020 WIL Initiative sponsor.

**Women in the Workplace Survey**

The Council has invited our members, as well as the broader Massachusetts employer community, to participate in the 2020 McKinsey & Co. Women in the Workplace study, a joint effort between McKinsey and LeanIn.Org. Since 2015, nearly 600 organizations have participated in the study and more than a quarter million people have been surveyed on their workplace experiences, making this the largest and most comprehensive study of the state of women in the workplace in America. To learn more about the 2020 Women in the Workplace Study and how your organization can participate, visit the [Women in the Workplace website](#).

**WIL Roundtables**

On January 29, the MITRE Corporation hosted our first 2020 WIL Roundtable and in April we will convene a Women in Leadership-focused virtual session. In addition, we remain optimistic about hosting two in-person WIL Roundtables scheduled for July 9 at MilliporeSigma and September 16 at PTC.

Please contact [Bernie Prusaczyk](#) to learn more about how you can participate in the Women in Leadership Initiative.

**In Memoriam: Lawrence B. Rasky**

Longtime Council friend and member Larry Rasky passed away on March 22 at the age of 69. Council members, staff and leaders are fortunate to have counted Larry among our friends and to have had the benefit of his sage advice over the years.

Larry has been described as the consummate political and communications advisor, but he was much more. In a world inhabited by too many fast-talking, opinionated “spinmasters,” Larry was an attuned listener, a cerebral presence and a thoughtful counselor, in addition to being exceptionally skilled at communicating the essence of an issue or policy argument.

All of us at the Council offer our prayerful condolences to Larry’s family and colleagues at Rasky Partners. May he rest in peace.

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The Massachusetts High Technology Council is an organization of CEOs and senior executives representing technology companies, professional services firms, and academic and research institutions dedicated to creating and sustaining conditions that support investment and job growth in Massachusetts. Our members are growth-oriented, knowledge-intensive employers and institutions that develop, deliver and depend on technology products, services and innovations to advance their organizational objectives.
Our mission 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.

For more information visit our website.