

THE HIGH TECH AGENDA

MASSACHUSETTS HIGH TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

New England Tech Vets Supports Our Heroes on Veterans Day & Everyday

On Veterans Day, November 11, the Council paused to recognize, thank and honor the men and women who have bravely served our nation in the armed forces. Beyond Veterans Day, the Council is proud to engage in an ongoing effort to support our veterans throughout the year. Our [New England Tech Vets](#) program has grown into a robust tool that empowers veteran job seekers and provides Council members with a uniquely effective resource to access veteran talent and support veteran hiring objectives. New England Tech Vets features thousands of job listings from more than 50 participating employers.



From its inception, employers' experience with Tech Vets has been remarkable. Within months of its launch, Council members like [Ironsides Technology](#) shared compelling stories about the power of Tech Vets. "We found a number of qualified candidates, each of whom could do the job," said Ironsides President Bill Riley. "The research filter made it possible to proactively identify and contact qualified candidates. For us, this non-traditional method of reaching qualified candidates worked great, and we won't hesitate to utilize the same strategy as we look to hire additional staff." Recently, [The Sullivan & Cogliano Companies](#) shared their New England Tech Vets success story. "Our company has long-partnered with the Mass. High Tech Council on talent access issues and we have had particular success identifying and hiring talent using the New England Tech Vets recruiting tool," said Jim Cogliano, President of The Sullivan & Cogliano Companies. "In just a few months, we've used Tech Vets to fill a number of key roles at our company and been able to provide opportunities to highly-skilled and deserving veterans, a real win-win for us and the community."

Council members joined in supporting New England Tech Vets partner the Red Sox Foundation and Mass. General Hospital [Home Base Program's](#) Mission Gratitude event again this year. Held on November 9 at Boston Symphony Hall, Mission Gratitude 2015 is the largest veteran fundraising event annually in New England (raising \$1.2 million) and featured musical entertainment by [Casey's Cross](#) and music legend Reba

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 mhctc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MHTC Board of Directors Meeting

December 10 –

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Location: MHTC offices – Waltham, MA

Air Force/Army Business Industry Day 2015 Presented by the Massachusetts Military Asset and Security Strategy Task Force

December 11 –

8:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: Devens Common Center,
Devens, MA

Engage with and learn how to contract on business opportunities with Hanscom Air Force Base and the U.S. Army's Natick Soldier Systems Center. The day will feature U.S. Representative Niki Tsongas, Ms. Marty Jones, President and CEO of MassDevelopment and various senior representatives of the Hanscom Air Force Base, Natick Soldier Systems, U.S. Army Research, Development & Engineering Command, Natick Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center, and

McEntire. Governor Charlie Baker mesmerized the audience with a poignant reflection on the grim reality of the conditions veterans face and the stark reality that many struggle with upon their return. Noting that 22 veterans die by suicide each day, the Governor praised Home Base for stepping in with the most effective private sector veteran support solution in the United States. The Council's latest blog post features a [compelling letter on the origins of Veterans Day](#) from Home Base Program Director Brigadier General (Ret.) Jack Hammond.

On November 17, the Council's New England Tech Vets team held the third in a three-part training series on key veteran employment issues. Offered in collaboration with the Home Base Program, this no-cost training session for Council members and their human resources and talent acquisition staff featured Bill Davidson, Home Base's Director of Outreach and Peer Support and Laura Lakin, Veteran Outreach Coordinator. The session focused on helping employers improve their veteran employee engagement through a deeper understanding of military culture.



Council and MATTERS Data Help Drive Governor's Economic Development Plan

On November 12, the Baker Administration released its blueprint for economic development, "[Opportunities for All](#)". Since the Governor's election a year ago, Council leaders have consistently engaged with key members of his team, including Secretary of Housing & Economic Development Jay Ash, to ensure that the voice of the unified technology community would be a key driver of the plan.

Importantly, the Governor's plan reinforces the ongoing impact of the Council's MATTERS competitiveness dashboard. "Data compiled by the Massachusetts High Technology Council and others show that Massachusetts punches far above its weight on a host of economic performance metrics, from venture capital investment and technology employment, to research and development output and GDP growth," the plan states. "At the same time, MHTC ... identified areas where Massachusetts is a clear business cost outlier, including energy and health care costs, as well as general business and regulatory compliance costs. High business costs can represent a significant drag on growth."

Over the coming weeks, the Council will continue to work with the Governor's team and legislators to identify and implement the most impactful aspects of the plan. Council members are encouraged to shape and advance this important work by participating on one of our key teams, including the Government Relations Committee which will convene next on December 14. Please contact [Mark Gallagher](#) for additional information about how to get involved.

U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine.
RSVP by December 7th to masstf@massdevelopment.com. Include name, email, and company. One spot per company please.

New England Tech Vets – Online WebEx Training Session
December 15 – 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
Location: Online session



The Council and its program partner, Monster Worldwide, Inc. will be hosting periodic WebEx training sessions like this for interested members and their recruiting staff to provide an overview of the features and functionality of NewEnglandTechvets.org. To register and receive WebEx instructions for the December 15 online session, please click [here](#).

Please contact [Ron Trznadel](#) to learn more about the New England Tech Vets Program and how to become a New England Tech Vets 'Charter Employer'.

NEW ENGLAND TECH VETS TIP OF THE MONTH

Advanced Training Available – The Council is happy to provide individual member companies' talent

acquisition teams with advanced New England Tech Vets training sessions. Over the past two months, we have conducted several such sessions at the request of members and the feedback has been terrific. These sessions are designed to highlight specific search and outreach tools available to members with NETV site access and assist in their teams' hiring efforts. For more information, contact [Ron Trznadel](#).



Council Convenes Business Leaders to Support Charter Schools; Calls on State Senate to Act, Not Delay

Talent access and availability are one of the top two areas of focus for tech employers in Massachusetts. Our innovation-driven economy has no choice but to optimize every potential source of talent.

Massachusetts' K-12 public schools are a critically important component of our state's multi-faceted talent pipeline and the availability of a quality public school education is an important factor in making the state an attractive place for talented individuals to live and work. For these reasons, the Council continues to lead the charge for policies that enhance and expand sources of educational opportunity, including public charter schools.

The Council is [calling on state legislators](#), particularly leaders of the State Senate, to support proposals that would allow state education officials to add charter schools. The Council backs Governor Baker's proposal to allow the number of charter schools to increase at a reasonable and sustainable rate while focusing that growth in communities where school performance is low, achievement gaps are high and student demand for charter school opportunities far outstrips the arbitrarily capped supply. If legislators fail to act, the Council is committed to support a 2016 ballot initiative it filed with charter school proponents that would allow voters to directly authorize the creation of additional charter schools.

On November 3, the Council's Talent Development and Policy Team convened a special meeting with leaders from the Baker Administration and the state's largest business groups who have committed to unify efforts to expand access to charter schools. The meeting was hosted by Council Board member Mike Kendall of Goodwin Procter and featured a discussion with Massachusetts Secretary of Education Jim Peyser as well as leaders from Great Schools Massachusetts and the Race to the Top Coalition. Initial polling indicates that Massachusetts voters support the expansion of public charter schools by a 2 to 1 margin, a promising indicator of the prospects for the ballot question.

STEM Advisory Council and 2015 STEM Summit

On November 10, the Council joined other leaders for the 2015 [Massachusetts STEM Summit](#) and a meeting of the Massachusetts STEM Advisory Council. Council Board member Al Bunshaft of [Dassault Systèmes Americas Corp.](#), who was named by Gov. Baker to the STEM Advisory Council earlier this year, spoke at a Summit session on opportunities to leverage national STEM organizations and moderated a panel on 21st Century STEM career skills.

The High Tech Council is working with the STEM Advisory Council to shape the state's STEM agenda and programming in ways that will expand the STEM talent pipeline by scaling programs that have been

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Spotlight: Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology Secures \$2.2M DOE Grant

Recently, Council member [Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology](#) ("BFIT") was awarded a five-year \$2.2 million Title III grant from the U.S. Department of

Education to enhance the college's student services system to boost student learning, retention and graduation, one of the largest grants awarded to BFIT in its 107-year history. BFIT's competition for the grant program was fierce, with 297 applications submitted, 191 read, and only 41 projects funded.

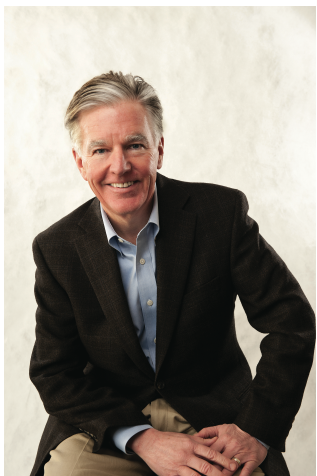
BFIT has a long history as an innovator in technical education and has already established an impressive record of student retention and career success. In part, the grant will expand BFIT's use of learning communities, an educational model that integrates students' academic and career interests with a network of support involving faculty, staff, and peers. Program-specific learning communities will incorporate events, group activities, and social media to build and maintain connections among community members. "This project brings together advising, instruction, peer-to-peer learning, and digital teaching tools in an integrated system," said BFIT President Anthony Benoit. "It will empower BFIT to go even further in meeting students where they are and engaging their strengths in learning technical content and 21st century workplace skills."



proven to empower students to pursue STEM education and careers. In early 2016, Jeff Leiden, CEO of Council member [Vertex Pharmaceuticals](#) will help convene a meeting of Council leaders to identify ways to further engage the technology community in the most impactful STEM education initiatives.

Incoming Council Board Member Marty Meehan Inaugurated as UMass President

On November 12, the [University of Massachusetts System](#) inaugurated longtime Council friend and collaborator Marty Meehan as its 27th President and the first UMass alumnus to lead



the UMass System. President Meehan's track record of success as Chancellor of UMass Lowell is exemplary. His leadership catalyzing dynamic collaborations between the university and the state's leading technology companies has created countless opportunities for UMass students and made lasting contributions to the Commonwealth's workforce development efforts.

The Council has had the privilege of partnering with President Meehan on many of these efforts as well as our Defense Technology Initiative. We look forward to elevating our productive partnership when

President Meehan joins the Council's Board of Directors in 2016.

Earlier this year, [Worcester Polytechnic Institute](#) held an inauguration for its new President, Laurie Leshin. President Leshin will also be joining the Council board in 2016.

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Data That MATTERS

