

Lori Conroy

From: MassEcon <coordinator+massecon.com@ccsend.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 7:45 AM
To: Lori Conroy
Subject: April InBrief: A look back at the 19th Annual Team Massachusetts Impact Awards

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April 2023



IN BRIEF
MAKING **MOVES** IN
MASSACHUSETTS

19th Annual Impact Awards Honors 13 Companies for Contributions to Massachusetts' Economy and Bristol Myers Squibb for its Long-Standing Commitment

MassEcon celebrated the 19th Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Awards on April 6, 2023, at Gillette Stadium, with Citizens as presenting sponsor. Over 330 people attended the ceremony to honor 13 companies for their outstanding contributions to the Massachusetts economy. Bristol Myers Squibb received the inaugural 2023 Massachusetts Summit Achievement Award for its long-standing commitment to Massachusetts. Yvonne Hao, Secretary of the Executive Office of Economic Development, was a featured speaker. Lisa Hughes, news anchor for WBZ-TV News, and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll also provided remarks.



To view the event video, program book, and photos, go to the event page [here](#).

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Notes on the economy

Leading business groups in Massachusetts have urged newly-elected Gov. Maura Healey to focus on the state's economic competitiveness. As current or former leaders of organizations that employ thousands of people in Massachusetts, we agree that making Massachusetts more competitive must be a top priority for state leaders. [Read more here.](#)

President Joe Biden's budget proposal for fiscal year 2024 includes a significant federal investment for the replacement of Cape Cod's two aging bridges — a down payment to the tune of \$350 million. [Read more here.](#)

Michael Calijoux, Gary Eeve, Jess Lee, Cathy Rocheleau, and Daniel Walsh were all recently elected to Associated Industries of Massachusetts' board of directors, which is chaired by Patricia Begrowicz, the president of Onyx Speciality Papers in Lee. [Read more here.](#)

Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey told MassLive reporters that she wants to move forward "as quickly as possible" with plans for new intercity passenger train service from Boston to Worcester, Springfield and Pittsfield. The plan has the support of local politicians, Amtrak and CSX Transportation, which owns a portion of the route. [Read more here.](#)

A new amendment has been introduced to the government of Massachusetts, and it could potentially benefit college students across the state. The Fair Share Amendment could allow for the accumulation of \$2B in funds that would support public education and transportation services. [Read more here.](#)

New England Farm Workers Council is getting out of the commercial real estate business, concentrating on housing and has already sold two of the 13 properties in Springfield, Holyoke and Bridgeport, Connecticut, it has put on the market. [Read more here.](#)

Central Mass. has a real opportunity to leverage its successes and make a significant mark upon the global life sciences industry. It's great to brand the region as more affordable than Cambridge/Greater Boston and to emphasize the appeal of manufacturing products in nearby facilities where real estate is cheaper. However, we're better off positioning Greater Worcester as a separate and distinct market. [Read more here.](#)

Expanding in MASS

CDMO Oligo Factory has increased its oligonucleotide synthesis capability 12-fold through the opening of a 13,000 square-foot facility in Holliston, Massachusetts. The facility – which opened its doors earlier this month and represents

over \$1 million in customized hardware and unique buildout – consists of bench space, offices, and labs for Oligo Factory's next generation of synthesizers, and significantly ups its manufacturing capacity. [Read more here.](#)

Two years after the opening of Polar Park, Worcester's Canal District is continuing to see a boom in construction and development. [Read more here.](#)

BioMed Realty, a Blackstone portfolio company and leading provider of real estate solutions to the life science and technology industries, executed a lease with renowned, James Beard award-winning chef Lydia Shire for a restaurant concept at Seaport Science Center, a 492,000 square-foot life science redevelopment in Boston, MA. [Read more here.](#)

Motion Industries Inc. has a new Motion Ai facility in Beverly. Motion Ai was in need of additional manufacturing and inventory space to better meet overall customer demand and to strategically grow the business. With 33,000 sq ft, the new facility complements two existing Motion Ai facilities nearby at Danvers and Woburn, giving the company a total of 62,000 sq ft of manufacturing space in the Boston area. [Read more here.](#)

NEW Products funding



For the past nine years, the Local Farmer Awards has awarded grants of up to \$2,500 for infrastructure improvements to farms in Berkshire, Franklin, Hamden and Hampshire counties. The Harold

Grinspoon Charitable Foundation and Big Y

Foods partner with twelve other community funders to provide support for the grant program. [Read more here.](#)

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission was awarded a \$375K Safe Streets Grant. The MVPC, which works with 15 communities including Andover and North Andover, was one of 17 MA recipients of the federal funding. [Read more here.](#)

EagleBridge Capital has arranged construction/permanent mortgage financing of \$6.14M for a new long term leased CVS pharmacy to be located in Braintree, Massachusetts. The new free standing CVS Pharmacy will replace a CVS located in the nearby Tedeschi Plaza Shopping Center which is anchored by a Stop & Shop Supermarket and also is home to a Citizens Bank, Town Fair Tire, and a Dunkin Donuts. [Read more here.](#)

MassDevelopment has issued a \$3.3 million tax-exempt bond, the proceeds of which will be used to buy and renovate a vacant 18,000-square-foot building located at 23 Farrar St. in Lynn. Soliyarn, a textile manufacturing business currently based in Boston's North End and Charlestown neighborhoods, will relocate to Lynn and use the building as its new headquarters/production facility. [Read more here.](#)

The Healey-Driscoll Administration and Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) announced two new grant programs totaling \$78 million in funding to support Massachusetts small businesses. [Read more here.](#)

Partners @work



With the announcement that Onyx Partners of Needham plans to demolish the Eastfield Mall as part of its redevelopment plan, the **Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts (EDC)** is planning to help the locally owned businesses in finding new locations. [Read more here.](#)



The Berkshire Black Economic Council (BBEC) is leading the Vibe North Street storefront recruitment grant program in collaboration with Downtown Pittsfield Inc. (DPI). The grant, which is funded by **Mass Development's Transformative Development Initiative (TDI)**, will offer businesses the opportunity to receive TDI Local funds in amounts between \$7,500 and \$25,000 to help cover the costs of relocating to currently vacant storefronts in the North Street district. [Read more here.](#)



The Hopkinton Chamber of Commerce supports the Growth Study Committee's formal recommendation to create a **Town of Hopkinton Economic Development Office**. Having a broad-based business presence in town ensures a robust inventory of well-paid jobs along with a variety of services, shops, restaurants, and yet to be developed hotel and event venues. [Read more here.](#)



Fifteen nonprofit organizations in the state, two of which are based in Springfield, will receive funding and support from Citizens Bank, as part of their new **'Citizens Helping Citizens Manage Money' program**. Select nonprofits will receive nearly \$400,000 to help support the work done in communities across the state of Massachusetts. [Read more here.](#)

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