



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Casey Baines cbaines@bostonchamber.com

Chamber Launches Higher Education Leadership Council

The Chamber is proud to announce the launch of the new [Higher Education Leadership Council](#). The Higher Education Leadership Council will bring together business and higher education leaders to build a more diverse, adaptable workforce and collaborate on the shared challenges the higher education industry faces as major employers in the region. The Leadership Council will also collectively strategize to develop and retain local students as well as talent from around the world to advance the region's economic recovery.

This Council is co-chaired by Wellesley College President Paula A. Johnson and Boston University President Robert Brown. [Council members](#) include University and College Presidents, Chancellors, and Provosts from across the Commonwealth.

"The higher education sector is one of the cornerstones of our economy," said James E. Rooney, President and CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. "It is critical for the Commonwealth's present and future competitiveness and recovery that our new Leadership Council effectively connect with the business community. We will continue to strategically shape a vibrant and equitable future that increases systemic opportunity for every student and community."

"Closer collaboration between our business community and higher ed institutions is key to our attracting and retaining the best talent to our region and to rebuilding a more equitable and sustainable economy as we recover from the pandemic," said Micho F. Spring, Chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors. "By working more closely together, we can champion a bold and better future for our students, employees, and workforce."

"I'm honored to serve as the Co-Chair of the Chamber's Higher Education Leadership Council and to continue the collaboration between us that was so important and beneficial to institutions across the Commonwealth this past year. We must recognize that our students are the key to our region's recovery and long-term success, and we must collectively invest in matching the academic curricula with the demands of the employers of today and tomorrow. We can help realize the Chamber's vision that all businesses and all people in our region succeed by making our higher education ecosystem even more effective, more equitable and more impactful in the lives of students, employees, and communities," said Paula A. Johnson, President of Wellesley College.

"The work of this new Higher Education Leadership Council is more important than ever, and I'm looking forward to serving as co-chair of the Council. As major employers in the region, higher education institutions understand the urgent need for students to develop critical skills necessary for their future careers as well as strengthening the region's infrastructure and inclusivity to ensure that students, especially students of color, desire to live and work in Massachusetts after graduation," said Robert Brown, President of Boston University.

The Chamber's nine [Leadership Councils](#) bring together business leaders from our membership with a specific interest in policy areas and industries to connect, share innovative practices, and help inform and develop the Chamber's policy positions.

About the Greater Boston Chamber

We are the convener, voice and advocate of our region's business community, committed to making Greater Boston the best place for all businesses and all people to thrive. We help our members and Greater Boston succeed by convening and connecting the business community; researching, developing, and advocating for public policies that contribute to our region's economic success; and providing comprehensive leadership development programs designed to grow strong business and civic leaders. Learn more at BostonChamber.com.