



## January 2026

*Greetings!*

*As we begin the new year, this edition's stories highlight how Massachusetts employers are carrying forward strong investments in education, workforce readiness, health, and community stability. These efforts reflect long-term commitments to building talent pipelines, improving access to care, and strengthening the systems that support families and local communities.*

*From hands-on STEM learning and math literacy programs to research advancing children's health and employer-led approaches to food access, housing stability, and mental health, our members continue to pair innovation with responsibility. Taken together, these initiatives underscore a shared understanding that Massachusetts' competitiveness depends on people and on consistent collaboration across business, education, and community partners. We look forward to the year ahead and to continuing this work alongside our members and partners across the Commonwealth.*

*Jay Ash  
President & CEO*

## Spotlight

**Granite CEO Commits Historic \$100M Pediatric Mental Health Investment**



Granite CEO Rob Hale and his wife, Karen Hale made a historic \$100 million gift to Boston Children's Hospital, the largest donation in the institution's history, to transform the future of pediatric mental and behavioral health care. The gift reflects a shared commitment to ensuring children receive comprehensive support for mental wellness alongside physical health, at a time when youth mental health needs are rising nationwide.

The investment will fund a new, state-of-the-art behavioral health facility in Brighton and enable Boston Children's to expand inpatient and outpatient services, advance research, train more clinicians, and strengthen community partnerships. Together, these efforts will support a new, integrated model of pediatric behavioral health care designed to improve outcomes for children and families across Massachusetts and serve as a model for care delivery nationally and globally.

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## Community Impact & Workforce Development

## National Grid Ignites STEM Curiosity at Boston STEM Festival

National Grid, in partnership with STEM Global Action, presented a STEM Fest at the Museum of Science. More than 900 K-12 students, parents and volunteer mentors engaged in hands-on STEM activities – all designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and confidence in the next generation of innovators. STEM Fest represented the power of collaboration – between industry, education, and community. The event engaged 606 K-12 students from 261 schools across Greater Boston. Supporting this effort were 49 volunteer mentors, including 35 college students and 14 STEM professionals, who collectively contributed to more than 170 hours of mentorship and inspiration, helping prepare a generation ready to power innovation in Massachusetts and beyond.

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## Suffolk Inspires Future Transportation Leaders Through Youth Summit

Suffolk partnered with the WTS-Boston Transportation YOU Committee and Peabody Public Schools to host the annual Boston Transportation YOU Summit. Through hands-on activities, including building and staging a model international airport, Suffolk volunteers introduced students ages 8-18, with a focus on empowering young women, to careers in transportation planning and engineering.

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## Wellington Management Expands Long-Term Community Grants Across Eastern Massachusetts

Wellington Management renewed all 57 of its North American Annual Grants in 2025, increasing each award to \$75,000. Forty-eight of the funded programs are based in Eastern Massachusetts and focus on expanding educational opportunity for underserved youth. With a 10-year funding commitment, the grants represent a sustained investment in community stability, supported by ongoing employee volunteer engagement with local partners such as Breaktime Boston.

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## Wayfair Expands Community Giving Through Its Neighborhood Fund

Wayfair expanded its Neighborhood Fund nationwide in 2025, committing \$160,000 in grants to local nonprofits selected by employees at its retail locations, fulfillment centers, and specialty brands. Each participating site was awarded a \$10,000 grant to support locally driven priorities such as housing stability, workforce development, and family support. The program strengthened community ties while empowering employees to direct resources toward organizations making a tangible difference where they live and work.



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## Bank of America Commits \$250 Million to Fight Hunger and Support Families

Bank of America announced a \$250 million, five-year commitment to address hunger and other basic needs nationwide, including \$5 million in immediate support to nearly 100 nonprofit organizations. The effort is reinforced by employee volunteer hours and a dollar-for-dollar match of employee donations.



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## Mass General Brigham Invests \$9 Million to Strengthen Food Access Across Greater Boston

Mass General Brigham is investing \$9 million through its Community Health Impact Funds to combat food and nutrition insecurity across Greater Boston. The funding supports local food suppliers, cold-storage infrastructure, and community-led collaborations to improve access to healthy, locally grown food.



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## Innovation

### Thermo Fisher Scientific Partners with Boys & Girls Clubs to Build STEM Talent



Thermo Fisher Scientific is partnering with Boys & Girls Clubs of America to expand access to high-quality STEM education for young people nationwide. Through hands-on DIY STEM kits, digital learning experiences, and employee-led mentoring, the initiative supports students from under-resourced communities and helps build early pathways into STEM careers.

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## Takeda Hosts MLSC's MassNextGen Showcase Spotlighting Bold Ideas and Inclusive Innovation

Takeda hosted the 2025 MassNextGen Showcase in partnership with the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, convening investors, industry leaders, and entrepreneurs to spotlight underrepresented founders shaping the future of life sciences in Massachusetts. Nine founders pitched ventures spanning sustainable cosmetic ingredients, pesticide alternatives, and other emerging technologies, highlighting both commercial potential and societal impact. The program also featured a fireside chat with Eric Paley and Rhonda Pacheco on the Commonwealth's investment climate, the Healey-Driscoll Administration's DRIVE Initiative, and why inclusive innovation is critical to long-term economic growth. The evening concluded with networking and a digital poster session, reinforcing the collaborative culture that underpins Massachusetts' life sciences ecosystem.



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## John Hancock CEO Makes the Case for Prevention-Focused Healthcare

Brooks Tingle, President and CEO of John Hancock, testified before the Joint Economic Committee of the United States Congress at a hearing focused on incentive-based models that improve health and reduce costs. He spoke about the company's success with its John Hancock Vitality Program in offering customers tools, resources, incentives and rewards to help them live longer, healthier, better lives. Brooks highlighted why the life industry is well positioned to make an impact and the need for more cross-sector collaboration to affect widespread, meaningful change in the health of Americans.

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## Sustainability

### Liberty Mutual Awards \$6.1M to Tackle Climate Resilience, Workforce, and Housing Challenges

Liberty Mutual Insurance awarded \$6.1 million through its Impact-Driven Collaboration program to support nonprofit partnerships addressing climate resilience, workforce development, and housing stability. The initiative emphasizes coordinated, multi-year collaboration among nonprofits to tackle complex challenges.

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## Recognition Corner

### Baystate Researcher Awarded \$728K Federal Grant to Advance Children's Oral Health



Baystate Health was awarded a \$728,647 federal research grant to examine how Medicaid payment models affect children's access to oral health care, including whether recent policy changes such as Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations and expanded fluoride varnish use during pediatric visits are improving access to preventive dental services for low-income children in Massachusetts. The findings are intended to inform state policy and help reduce persistent oral health disparities.

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# MACP Spotlight

## MACP Employer Roundtable on the Future of Skills & K-12 Education

Massachusetts Competitive Partnership convened employers, education leaders, and policy partners in partnership with the Massachusetts Business Roundtable and the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy to examine how well current education pathways align with workforce needs in Massachusetts. Employers consistently emphasized gaps in durable, non-technical skills including communication, professionalism, teamwork, confidence navigating workplace systems, and the ability to ask questions and receive feedback, even among technically capable new hires. Participants highlighted the growing importance of experiential learning, early career exposure, and familiarity with real workplace tools and norms, while also pointing to barriers that limit effective employer-school partnerships such as fragmented programs, scheduling constraints, compliance challenges, and limited staff capacity. The discussion underscored broad employer consensus that as technology and AI reshape work, strengthening foundational skills, practical readiness, and clearer school-to-career pathways is increasingly urgent to ensure students are prepared for the realities of today's jobs.

[View Past Business Impact Bulletins](#)



The Massachusetts Competitive Partnership (MACP) is a non-profit, non-partisan, 501(c)(4) public policy group comprised of chief executive officers of 19 of the Commonwealth's largest businesses. MACP's goals are to promote job growth and competitiveness in MA by working in collaboration with stakeholders from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Learn more on our website:

[www.masscompetes.org](http://www.masscompetes.org)



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