



SE MA STEM Network Resource Fair
Business & Educator Partnerships
Benefits to Business, Educators, and Students

Presenter & Panelist Biographies

Thank you!

On behalf of the CONNECT Partnership and the SE MA STEM Network, we would like to express our most sincere appreciation and gratitude to the exhibitors, panelists, speakers, and participants for their time, resources, support, and enthusiasm for this event and all those that were hosted throughout the year. Most especially, we would like to acknowledge Congressman Joe Kennedy, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, BSU President Fred Clark, Dr. Lisha Cabral, Diane Ferrera, Debra Garvin, Jennifer Brenner, and Trinity Harrison.

Sincerely,



*Stacey A. Kaminski, Ed.D.
Executive Director, CONNECT*



*Katherine Honey
SE MA Network Coordinator*

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Jennifer Brenner, Sensata Technologies Inc., Process Engineer and STEM Coordinator

Jennifer is a new product development process engineer at Sensata Technologies in Attleboro and has been passionate about STEM her entire life. She is a graduate of Cornell University and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical and biomolecular engineering. Her STEM interest started with planning and assisting STEM activities through Girl Scouts while she was in elementary school, and she has continued her passion by working with Sensata to take a grass roots STEM focus to a more structured volunteer team.

Along with her engineering work at Sensata, she is involved in community efforts focused on advancing youth in the community and providing growth opportunities in the STEM and professional development areas. As a member of the Attleboro STEM Community Team, Jennifer has led activities at STEM Nights and STEM Saturdays. Working with colleagues at Sensata, she established the Sensata STEM Mentoring Initiative, which is a three year program that provides middle school girls the opportunity to work with mentors from Sensata to deepen their understanding of STEM concepts, explore career opportunities, and develop leadership skills.

Dr. Lisha Cabral, Assistant Superintendent, Easton Public Schools

Dr. Cabral has served in various educational positions before taking on her current role as assistant superintendent. As of July 2017, in her role as superintendent, she will work to fulfill the district's mission through increased community engagement.

Dr. Cabral will share Easton's efforts to develop a community team and the benefits of collaborating with community members and businesses to advance STEM education and prepare students to be successful in college and in the 21st Century workplace.

Fred Clark, President, Bridgewater State University

On September 1, 2015, Fred Clark was inaugurated as the 12th president of Bridgewater State University. Becoming the president of Bridgewater State caps a long and distinguished association with the university. Fred is a 1983 graduate of Bridgewater, majoring in political science. After graduation, Fred went on to receive a law degree from Suffolk University and then worked for Congressman Joseph Moakley as his district director, legal counsel and Washington liaison officer.

Fred was instrumental in working with Congressman Moakley in securing a \$10 million federal appropriation in 1991 to build what is now the Moakley Center for Technological Applications

on campus. At the time, the appropriation was the largest ever given to a public college in the history of the United States. Continuing his service to Bridgewater State and to public higher education, Fred was the chair of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and later the executive officer of the Massachusetts State University System Council of Presidents.

During his tenure at the Massachusetts Council of Presidents, Fred was instrumental in securing the passage of legislation that led to six of the state colleges being named universities. In 2011, Fred returned to Bridgewater and was appointed as the executive vice-president and vice-president of external affairs responsible for a range of regional, state, national and international programs and initiatives. In the area of regional engagement, Fred launched the Institute for Policy Analysis and Regional Engagement to enhance relationships with municipalities and non-profits.

Fred also helped to strengthen and expand ties to numerous businesses and business organizations in Southeastern Massachusetts. Since his inauguration, Fred has implemented a number of programs and initiatives designed to continue Bridgewater's growth and academic excellence. One of his key priorities was the development of a data driven decision making and strategic planning process that would lay the foundation for a comprehensive university-wide plan for the future of Bridgewater State beginning in 2017.

Fred also established the Division of Student Success and Diversity, which will improve student retention, reduce achievement gaps, and assist students in the successful completion of their studies. Building on this commitment to student success, Fred intensified efforts to advance innovative programs in the areas of science and mathematics, undergraduate research, internships, adult learning, and support for faculty teaching and research.

Diane Ferrera, Director of Human Resources – AccuRounds

Diane is the Director of Human Resources for AccuRounds, an advanced manufacturing company that provides custom precision machining services for several industries including aerospace, defense, semi-conductor, automotive, medical instrumentation and device, dental, alternative energy, oil and gas, robotics and emerging technologies.

Diane is active in many industry and educational organizations, including the Southeastern Massachusetts STEM Network, Alliance for Vocational Technical Education (AVTE), Southeastern Mass. Advanced Manufacturing Consortium (SMAMC), and several workforce investment boards. She is also an advisory board member for machine technology at Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical School.

Diane has extensive experience working in the manufacturing and wholesale/retail food industries. She received her bachelor's degree in education and psychology/sociology from the University of Massachusetts Boston, an associate's degree from Fisher College, and earned the SPHR certification from the Society for Human Resource Management.

Debra Garvin, Education Coordinator – Robbins Children’s Program

An educator at Robbins Children’s Program (RCP) in Attleboro for thirteen years, Debra has served in various positions before taking her current role as education coordinator. As the education coordinator her efforts have focused on creating a Maker Space and providing professional development for RCP educators that focus on enhancing their ability to provide relevant learning opportunities for students.

The Four Cs of 21st century learning are stressed. The Four Cs or 4 Cs are four skills that have been identified by the United States-based Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) as the most important skills required for 21st century education: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. As a SE MA STEM advisory board member since 2014, Debra shares her insights on the importance of beginning STEM education in early childhood. Debra holds a bachelor’s degree in early childhood.

Trinity Harrison, Middle School Student, Attleboro Public Schools

Trinity will share her experiences at the 2015 Envision the Future Program held at Bridgewater State University, July 20-24, 2015, and with the Sensata STEM Mentoring Initiative that have provided her with opportunities to engage in computing and engineering activities and explore career options with STEM professionals. In addition, Trinity will share how her work with the Attleboro Community Team has enhanced her leadership skills through presenting to the Attleboro School Committee and activities at STEM Nights and STEM Saturdays.

Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III

Joe Kennedy III is proud to serve the Fourth District of Massachusetts in Congress. Currently in his third term, he represents a diverse district that stretches from the suburbs of Boston to the more industrial cities of Massachusetts’ South Coast.

As a member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee, Joe has crafted a legislative agenda driven by the needs of his constituents, with a focus on issues like mental health and addiction, energy costs, manufacturing, and STEM education.

Inspired by the rich manufacturing tradition of the 4th Congressional District and the modern economic challenges many of his communities face, Joe has been a vocal advocate for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, vocational schools, and community colleges since he arrived in Washington. His Perkins Modernization Act and STEM Gateways Act, which focus on expanding educational opportunities to middle and working-class students, both passed the House in 2016 with broad bipartisan support.

Additionally, his Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act (RAMI) was signed into law by President Obama in 2014. The bipartisan legislation supports a network of domestic manufacturing centers aimed at fueling new technologies and educating a next-generation workforce.

Nationally, Joe has become a powerful voice for social justice, championing issues like transgender rights, marriage equality, pay equity, and comprehensive immigration reform. A former prosecutor and legal aid volunteer, he has also helped highlight the importance of our civil justice system, establishing the first ever Congressional Access to Legal Services Caucus.

Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito

Karyn Polito was inaugurated on January 8th, 2015, as the 72nd Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Elected alongside Governor Charlie Baker in November of 2014 on a platform of making Massachusetts great for everyone, Lieutenant Governor Polito continues her career in public service in the new administration.

Lieutenant Governor Polito began her public service in local government, serving as a member of the Shrewsbury Board of Selectmen. She then expanded her work to the state level, serving as a member of the State Lottery Commission. Then, in 2001, Polito ran for state representative and won, proudly representing the residents of the 11th Worcester District (Shrewsbury and Westborough) for five terms.

In her time on Beacon Hill, Polito was a leading advocate for the passage of "Jessica's Law," a bill which would establish tough mandatory minimum sentences for child sex offenders. Her advocacy paid off in 2008, when she worked with her Democratic colleagues to pass tougher sentencing legislation and require district attorneys to file more comprehensive reports about child sex offenses in Massachusetts.

Lieutenant Governor Polito understands the strain on local budgets, and worked relentlessly to secure increases in local aid, Chapter 70 school aid, special education aid, and special education transportation aid, as well as for local grant funding. Throughout her term in office, Polito advocated for a safer Commonwealth by filing legislation in a number of key areas: cracking down on drunk drivers, requiring defibrillators in public schools, and strengthening the experience requirements for young drivers.

Polito has also worked hard to promote jobs and economic development, especially encouraging young people to explore careers in science and technology. She is a co-chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education, and she hosted the annual "Women in Science" conference in Worcester. She is a board member of the Worcester Area Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Corridor Nine Area Chamber of Commerce.