



FOUNDATION

Metro South Chamber of Commerce Foundation Board of Directors

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Mission:

To assist in the betterment and competitiveness of the community through strategic philanthropic activities focused on strengthening the economy.

Funds raised by the Foundation are utilized primarily for entrepreneurial training and workforce development projects in the Metro South region, including scholarships to eligible applicants pursuing training and to provide language, vocational or technical training services.

Metro South Chamber of Commerce Foundation

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Business Assistance Center

The Metro South Business Assistance Center (BAC) serves the interests of existing and start-up businesses by providing low-cost and efficient business information in an effort to create new jobs and investment in the Metro South region. The Metro South BAC is one-stop location for business resources and advice, including:

- ❖ **Research:** The Metro South BAC provides existing and start-up businesses with access to helpful resources, facts and figures, market trends, business tips, and management techniques.
- ❖ **Consultation:** On-site counseling on a broad variety of business issues is provided by counselors from the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and other partner organizations where a business can receive free and confidential counseling on everything from creating a business plan to utilizing state financing programs to renovate their business.
- ❖ **Education:** The Metro South BAC also offers a wide variety of free or low-cost seminars and workshops designed to make a business successful. Workshops include such topics as creating a marketing plan, learning to export, increasing sales, and motivating employees.
- ❖ **Advocacy:** The Metro South BAC also provides small business advocacy through its partner organizations such as the Metro South Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Small Business Administration. These organizations exist to encourage policies that support the development and growth of American small business.



Small Business Counseling Room

Edison Business Incubator



Pictured above:
Joseph Goldsberry, Videography by Media Concepts of Whitman;
Rhonda & John Bennett, Mr. Appliance of Brockton; Howard Wright, Wright Technology Group of Brockton.

The Edison Business Incubator is a small business incubator created in partnership with the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, the United States Small Business Administration, and SCORE. **According to the SBA, ninety percent of businesses that start in an incubator will remain in business.** The incubator provides below-market rental space for start-up and expanding micro-enterprises needing assistance. It is a direct outgrowth of the Chamber's mission to create jobs and improve the economic well being and quality of life of the Metro South region.

The purpose of Edison Business Incubator is to:

- ❖ **Enhance** the services available from the Metro South Business Assistance Center;
- ❖ **Provide** a stepping-stone for fledging businesses wishing to operate in a professional environment;
- ❖ **Support** the substantial overhead costs associated with a prime urban location.

"The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is a major force promoting and serving Brockton's business community. The Edison Business Incubator Space offers key resources for the growth of my business in a prime location at an affordable cost."

Howard Wright, Wright Technology Group

We believe that a small investment can have a major impact on our economy.

Business Consultation/Advocacy

- ❖ **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** workshops designed to highlight the various SBA programs and services that are available to prospective or current entrepreneurs who need assistance in starting or expanding their business.
- ❖ The **Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)** is a SBA program under which retired business people offer free counseling to start-ups and small businesses.
- ❖ The **Operational Services Division, State Office of Women and Minority Owned Business Assistance, and Affirmative Market Program** offer workshops designed for businesses who are interested in learning how to do business with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- ❖ The **Massachusetts Small Business Development Center** offers counseling and workshops geared toward start-up and existing small businesses.
- ❖ The **South Eastern Economic Development Corporation (SEED)** is certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration and is designed to provide loans to new and existing business owners. SEED offers basic business workshops aimed at assisting entrepreneurs to understand the fundamentals of owning a business.

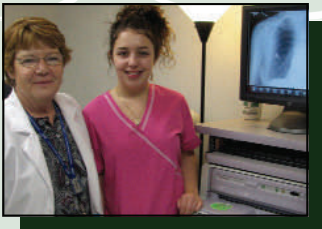


Connecting Activities Students to Employers Program

Connecting Activities is a statewide initiative that is supported and implemented by the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Connecting Activities is a unique program that creates a competitive workforce by providing young people with business experience through structured work-based learning opportunities. Area employers provide youth a meaningful worksite learning experience that builds academic, technical, and workplace skills. Participating high schools: Brockton High School, East Bridgewater High School, Stoughton High School and Whitman-Hanson Regional High School. Southeastern Regional Technical Institute also participates with the Chamber in industry sector internships.

“Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital welcomes high school student volunteers as interns. These relationships create a win - win situation for the students and the hospital, helping to create a volunteer base while providing these young volunteers with a tremendous opportunity within the healthcare setting. We are fortunate to be part of the Connecting Activities Internship Program.”

-Elena Ceurvels-Murphy, Director of Volunteers, Signature Healthcare



Professional Development Education/Research

- ❖ QuickBooks (Two-Part Series)
- ❖ Social Media Sites Solutions
- ❖ Business Tactics/Trends
- ❖ Website Design Trends
- ❖ Search Engine Optimization
- ❖ One-Page Business Plan



- ❖ Restaurant Management
- ❖ Global Business Basics
- ❖ How to be a Consultant
- ❖ Real Estate Investment
- ❖ Steps to Starting a Business
- ❖ Legal Considerations

English For All Workers Initiative



Immigrants are an important component of the regional population and it is incumbent upon regional leaders to chart a course of successful integration that provides immigrants with the skills to participate fully in the economy. The “English for All Workers” Summit assembled a forum of eighty business, community, political leaders and other regional stakeholders to address the backlog of over 2,000 local individuals wishing to learn the English language in order to fully participate in the local workforce. A commitment was made to increase English skills for the region’s immigrants and to reduce the current waiting list for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes by 500 persons within the next year. As a result, the Chamber Foundation has funded sector driven English classes focused on financial and customer services.