



MCCA ANNOUNCES HIRE OF COLLEEN RICHARDS POWELL AS DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

MCCA Executive Director James E. Rooney today announced the hiring of Colleen Richards Powell as the authority's new director of external relations and government affairs.

In this position, Powell will provide leadership both internally and externally to develop and direct a community and business outreach program that benefits the MCCA, local communities and local businesses. She will also coordinate with tourism agencies and organizations, build coalitions with constituent groups related to MCCA business and legislative objectives, and serve as key contact for local, state and federal elected and appointed officials. Powell has also been tasked with furthering the MCCA's efforts to enhance diversity within the organization, the local community and the MCCA's business partners.

"Colleen is an exceptional hire for the MCCA and we're lucky to have her on board," said Rooney. "Her work experience is impressive, and her reach has been and will continue to be community-wide as the MCCA continues to foster positive relationships with lawmakers, business and community leaders."

Before joining the MCCA, Powell served as deputy director of the Commonwealth Compact, helping recruit and manage more than 175 member organizations as part of a civic initiative aimed at making Massachusetts a workforce location of choice for people of color. Prior to that, Powell spent six years at Harvard University, first as the special assistant for student affairs under then-President Lawrence H. Summers, and later as director of the Rockefeller and Herchel Smith Fellowship programs for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Powell also served as director of clubs at the Wellesley College Alumnae Association, and was senior assistant to the Democratic General Counsel in the office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Powell also chaired the board of Strong Women, Strong Girls, a non-profit group focused on empowering young college women and elementary school girls. She currently serves on the board of trustees of Bunker Hill Community College and was a former trustee at Wellesley College, where she received her bachelor of arts degree. Powell also holds a master's degree in higher education administration from the Graduate School of Education at Harvard.

About the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA)

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority owns and oversees the operations of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA and the Boston Common Parking Garage. In 2009, the MCCA hosted 208 events at the BCEC and the Hynes with 714,128 attendees, generating 521,556 hotel room nights and \$420 million in economic impact for Greater Boston.

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