



**For Immediate Release:
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MCCA LAUNCHES HOSPITALITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND
“Gate Shows” Provide Scholarship Opportunities For Future Hospitality Workforce

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) today launched the MCCA Hospitality Scholarship Fund, which establishes scholarships to boost workforce development in the hospitality industry. Two annual scholarships will be available to Massachusetts students, which will be offered through a two-part program that will also benefit non-profits in Boston’s neighborhoods. The scholarships and the community grants will be funded by unanticipated revenue generated from consumer shows, also known as “gate shows,” at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC).

“This scholarship program will allow current and future students - our future hospitality providers -the opportunity to fulfill their career goals,” said James E. Rooney, Executive Director of the MCCA. “The MCCA owns and operates three convention centers in Massachusetts – two in Boston and one in Springfield – and a strong hospitality workforce is vital to the success of these facilities. It is our hope that these scholarships will encourage those students entering the field or offer incentives for development for those who have already chosen the hospitality and visitor industry. ”

The MCCA’s Hospitality Scholarship Fund will award scholarships to Massachusetts high school seniors who are graduating from an accredited high school or college students who are currently enrolled as hospitality industry majors at a two- or four-year accredited higher education institution. Annually, two scholarships of \$2,500 each will be available through the MCCA Community Partnerships & Hospitality Scholarship Fund. Applicants must be residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Application deadline for the 2007 academic year is May 1st. To download an application, please visit www.massconvention.com.

Legislation signed this summer lifted the ban on gate shows at the BCEC, authorizing the BCEC to host gate shows greater than 250,000 square feet at the 2.1 million square foot facility. The legislation mandates that the community of South Boston receive a portion of the revenues generated by any gate shows held at the building, and the MCCA announced this week that it will build on that program to support other Boston neighborhoods and to provide the Hospitality Scholarships.

The BCEC will host its first gate show, the New England Boat Show, February 17- 24, 2007, with nearly 1,000 boats on display, offering a complete range of powerboats and sailboats from sailing dinghies to 50-foot yachts. More than 50,000 people are expected to attend the eight day event that, in addition to world-class boats, will include more than 300 exhibiting companies representing the finest marine products and services. Tickets are available to the public.

All completed Hospitality Scholarship applications, should be submitted directly to:

Dennis Callahan, Esq.
Community Partnerships & Hospitality Scholarship Fund
Massachusetts Convention Center Authority
415 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210
(No copies or faxes will be accepted)

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 2006, the MCCA hosted at the BCEC and the Hynes 274 events with 666,522 attendees that generated 648,852 hotel room-nights and \$528 million in economic impact for Greater Boston.

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