

One SouthCoast NAVIGATOR

CHARTING SUCCESS FOR SOUTHCOAST BUSINESS

BUSINESS NEWS FOR AND ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE ONE SOUTHCOAST CHAMBER

AUGUST 2023

August and September are Around the Corner and the Chamber is Ready!



July is one of our quieter months with so many people enjoying family time, long weekend getaways and sparkling beaches in our beautiful region, but for the Chamber and our goddess of events, Katie Greene, it is planning time for a very, very busy late summer and fall.

As a part of our strategic planning process, the Chamber team looked at our events to ensure that they would provide member value but also so that they would reflect the incredible diversity found within our membership. The South Coast region has an incredible array of business types, many of which are family-owned and operated. In a world of consolidation, the family-owned business is very much a part of our landscape, and on August 17 we will feature a panel of family-owned businesses – all of which multi-generational – to address issues surrounding succession planning and legacy.

To say that the political landscape in Washington, D.C. is complex and divided would be an understatement. We have requests out now for our two Congressman, Jake Auchincloss and Bill Keating, to address the membership this fall and to see how in that environment they are able to support the region through their hard work.

We are mired at this point in a continuing tight labor market where there are far more jobs available in our region than there are those in the workforce. Unemployment levels have returned to pre-pandemic levels, but businesses have to continue to recruit workers to meet their needs and rise to full productivity. Our fall Job Fair is scheduled for September 14 at Rachel's Lakeside, and we will be working with our local workforce boards to help steer candidates to our companies.

While serious work is never far away

from our minds, it never hurts to take a break and party a little. An annual event, the ServPro End of Summer Bash will be a business after hours not to miss on August 31, and in September the annual Hatch Street Studios BAH on September 14 will allow business people to meet artists and makers and enjoy each other's company in a remarkable converted mill setting.

But if it is a party you are looking for, look no further than the greatest party on the pier – the Blount Fine Foods New Bedford ChowderFest! With live music and 20 restaurants serving spectacular chowders, signature soups and stuffed quahogs. Microbreweries and cocktails will offer the best refreshments, and once again we will partner with The Black Whale to offer the finest VIP experience ever. This year ChowderFest will take place on Saturday, September 30 on City Pier 3. A day at ChowderFest might be the best family event to offer your employees as a special treat. It is both affordable and fun. Dress comfortably and come hungry!

All Chamber events appear on our web site, onesouthcoast.com, and you may purchase tickets for paid events or reserve a place for one of our many free events. We all hate to see the summer come to an end, but through the Chamber we can ease that pain with events and programs that help you grow, learn, connect and have fun. See you soon!

Mike O'Sullivan
CEO

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SouthCoast Business Builders Breakfast
Tuesday, August 15
8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Sponsored by: The Alzheimer's Association
The Cottages at Dartmouth Village
274 Slocum Road, North Dartmouth

Good Morning SouthCoast
Family Owned Business Panel
Thursday, August 17
7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Merrill's on the Waterfront, New Bedford

OSC HR Council Presents
Workforce Development Opportunities
for Massachusetts Businesses
Thursday, August 24
2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Via Zoom

Business After Hours
End of Summer Bash at Servpro!
Thursday, August 31
4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
SERVPRO of Dartmouth/New Bedford

2023 SouthCoast Job Fair
Thursday, September 14
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Rachel's Lakeside, Dartmouth

For additional information and/or to
register for events please visit:
www.members.onesouthcoast.com/events/

One SouthCoast Navigator is the official news publication of One SouthCoast Chamber

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Vice President of Finance & Operations, Dorothy Botelho, IOM
Vice President of Corporate Member Engagement & Sponsorships, Kimberly Coroa Moniz
Director of Membership & Retention, Clifford Athouriste
Director of Events & Programs, Katie Greene
Director of Marketing & Communications, Jennifer Lourenco
Patti Rego, Executive Director, Viva Fall River
Ashley Occhino, Executive Director, Fall River Arts and Culture Coalition (FRACC)
Photographer, Sergio Dabdoub, BadMonkeyPics

2023 OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Committee:

- Chair: Eileen Danahey, St. Anne’s Credit Union
- Immediate Past Chair: Kim Perry, Waring-Sullivan Funeral Home
- Chair-Elect: Rose Lopes, Sylvia Group
- Treasurer: Matthew Schondek, Fall River Municipal Credit Union
- Vice Chair-Government Affairs: William Burns, Southcoast Health System
- Vice Chair-Small Business: Curtis Nelson, Nelson Insurance & Financial Services
- Vice Chair-Governance Committee: Doug Glassman, SERVPRO
- Vice Chair-One SouthCoast Chamber Foundation: Nicholas Christ, BayCoastBank
- Vice Chair-Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Gail Fortes
- At Large: Paul Chasse, REALTOR® Association of Southeastern Massachusetts

Members of the Board of Directors:

Terms to Expire in December 2023:

- William Burns, Southcoast Health System
- Mike Bushell, St. Anne’s Hospital
- Nicholas Christ, BayCoast Bank
- Stephen W. Connulty, Paul & Dixon Insurance
- Catherine Dillon, BankFive
- Charlie Fellows, Lafrance Hospitality
- Jeffrey Glassman, Darn It, Inc.
- Jeff Pagliuca, Bristol County Savings Bank

- Derek Santos, New Bedford Economic Development Council
- Matt Zenni, Liberty Utilities

Terms to Expire in December 2024:

- Nathan Araujo, Advance Career Services
- Kevin Carando, Acushnet Company
- Barbara Casagrande, AHEAD
- Ronald Ellis, Edward Jones
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- Lynne Mastera, Precix
- Douglas Rodrigues, D. E. Rodrigues & Company, Inc.
- Carl Sawejko, Sawejko Communications
- Matthew Schondek, Fall River Municipal Credit Union
- Bernadette Souza, Youth Opportunites Unlimited
- Michael Tavares, Horacio’s, Inc.
- John Williams, UMASS-Dartmouth

Terms to Expire in December 2025:

- Dugan Becker, SouthCoast Wind
- Paul Chasse, REALTOR® Association of Southeastern Massachusetts
- Jenifer Cullen, Vineyard Wind
- Peter Daley, People Incorporated
- Eileen Danahey, St. Anne’s Credit Union
- Dr. Laura Douglas, Bristol Community College
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The Massachusetts Small Business Center (MSBDC) Network provides one-to-one free comprehensive and confidential services focusing on, business growth and strategies, financing and loan assistance as well as strategic, marketing and operational analysis. In addition, low cost educational training programs are offered across the state targeted to the needs of small business.

Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network
200 Pocasset Street, Fall River, MA 02721
Phone: (508) 673.9783 Fax: (508) 674.1929
www.msbdc.org
www.facebook.com/msbdc



GOOD MORNING SOUTHCOAST

Family Owned Business Panel

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17 2023

7:30 AM - 9 AM

MERRILL'S ON THE WATERFRONT, NEW BEDFORD MA

Panelists

- *Todd Blount, Blount Fine Foods*
- *Brian LeComte, Gold Medal Bakery*
- *Allie Wainer, Sid Wainer & Son*
- *Heike Milhench, Milhench Supply Company*

MEMBERS: \$30

NONMEMBERS \$45



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

END OF SUMMER
BASH



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 31ST

4:30 PM - 7 PM



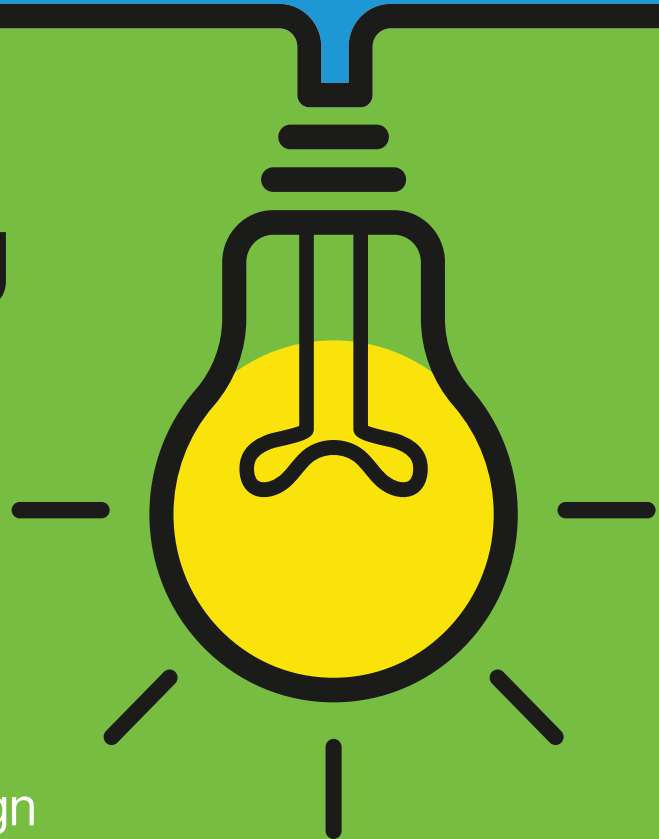
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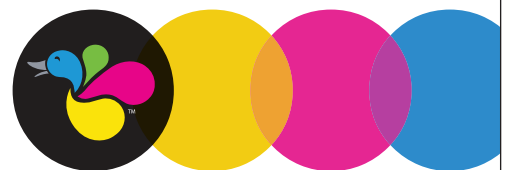
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AMBASSADOR

Spotlight



JOHN J. DANAHEY, JR.

President, Digital Tech Partners, Inc. (DTP) and Managing Partner - Systems Engineering

DTP is laser focused on providing expert cybersecurity services to businesses in regulated industries. Most recently he received credentialing from the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Accreditation Body as a Registered Practitioner (#2496). Decades of experience with Multi-Billion dollar companies, and dozens of continuing education certifications (many of which are security focused) separates John from his peers.

Prior to starting DTP John served as Department Head of Information Technology Systems Engineering, as well as Department Head of Systems Infrastructure and Operations for MITRE Corporation.

A Veteran (Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and Order of Saint Barbara), and retiree from the Massachusetts National Guard, his service to the nation and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts spans 23 years.

John holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing, an M.B.A., and is currently a candidate for the Master of Science, Systems Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

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Good News!

Greater Fall River Healthy Families wins statewide All-Star Award



Home visiting program earns accolade for productivity and performance

Greater Fall River Healthy Families, a program of People Incorporated, was the proud recipient of the Healthy Families Massachusetts All-Star Award at the Children's Trust Annual Celebration Day in June. This prestigious award recognizes one of 24 Healthy Families programs throughout the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Healthy Families Massachusetts Implementation Team shared their congratulatory statement about Greater Fall River Healthy Families, saying, "This program has had an incredibly stable team and has recently experienced staff turnover for the first time in many years. Every member of this team was included in the Recognition of Excellence program, and the three home visitors in the state that completed the highest number of home visits were from this program. Supervisors have worked hard to ensure participant needs are met by completing visits when staff are out, all while balancing their work supporting home visitors with reflective supervision. Despite managing the many changes taking place, the Program Coordinator continues to pursue initiatives to advance the home visiting field."

Greater Fall River Healthy Families Program Coordinator and People Incorporated's Director of Home Visiting

& Service Coordination JoAnne Bernier added to the congratulatory statements about her team. "Of the 24 statewide Healthy Families programs, we are proud to bring this award home to Fall River. The staff is truly deserving of this recognition as they have worked diligently and have been attentive to maintaining consistency for families, despite being short-staffed."

Greater Fall River Healthy Families provides home-based education, support, resources, and referrals to first-time parents residing in Fall River, Somerset, Westport, and Swansea. The program is free for participants. For more info, contact 508-679-5233.



Community Heart Awards Recognize Local Champions of Inclusion



Community Connections Inc., a non-profit serving people with disabilities throughout Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod, recently held their Community Heart Awards celebration dinner at the Rosebrook Event Center in Wareham, MA.

Community Connections recognized forty businesses and individuals for their shared commitment to a world

in which people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are valued, respected, and included. Of those recognized, twelve were honored with a Community Heart Award including Employer of the Year awards going to Eastham Ace Hardware for Cape Cod, and Lee's Market in Westport for the South Coast, and Kind Heart awards to Whole Health Pharmacy, Hyannis and Healthcare Pharmacy Inc., Fall River for their instrumental support during the Covid-19 pandemic. State Senator Michael Rodrigues, First Bristol and Plymouth District was honored as Legislator of the Year for his efforts on behalf of the disability community and their support providers.

Community Connections President & CEO, David Botting said at the event, "[W]e live in a time where barriers are being broken, where perceptions are shifting, and people with disabilities are being recognized as valuable contributors to society. Everyone we honor tonight has played an instrumental role in shattering stereotypes, fostering equal opportunities, and creating spaces that enable individuals with disabilities to shine."

The Community Heart Awards raise awareness and promote the outstanding efforts of individuals and organizations that partner with Community Connections to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities on the South Coast and Cape Cod. It's our hope that events such as this will inspire others to emulate this year's honorees and begin to advocate for and support the full participation of people with disabilities in every aspect of life.

Below is a list of additional businesses recognized at the Community Heart Awards Dinner:

Stop & Shop, Dunkin Donuts, Charlton Memorial Hospital, Market Basket, Cardi's Furniture, Shaw's, BJ's, TJX Companies, Walmart, McDonalds, Plymouth Rehabilitation, Bristol County Sheriff's Office, Farm & Coast Market, Kimwell Nursing & Rehabilitation, Gina's Restaurant, Quality Home Heating, Long Electric, Spindle City Auto Glass, Heritage Small Engine Repair, Certified Rescue Courses, GEM

Air Services, Milhenc Supply Company, DW White Construction, Cape Cod Five, Bank5, BayCoast Bank, Trader Joe's (Hyannis), Sunderland Printing



Open House at the Mansions



The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum (RJD), in partnership with DATMA and the James Arnold Mansion, will be open for free visitation on Sunday, August 20, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. The two mansions, connected by County Street and marriage (James Arnold married Sarah Rotch, daughter of William Rotch Jr.), are co-hosting a day of activities. Visitors to the RJD will have the opportunity to tour the house and garden, enjoy a refreshing glass of lemonade, and play lawn games. At the Arnold Mansion, visitors will tour the house and grounds (the original Arnold Arboretum), learn about the property's historic trees, and chat over fruit punch and cookies. Visitors can also learn more about DATMA's Shelter 2023 programming and public art exhibitions.

About The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum

The historic house, now the site of The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum, was built in 1834 for whaling merchant William Rotch Jr. This Greek Revival mansion, located on a full city block of formal gardens, is a National Historic Landmark, one of only 2,500 in the nation. The period rooms of the house chronicle 150 years of the economic and social evolution of the City of New Bedford, as reflected in the residences of the Rotch, Jones, and Duff families and their domestic staff.

The Museum is located at 396 County Street, New Bedford. It is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Advance booking for admission is encouraged, but not required. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$6 for AAA members, seniors and students; and \$3 for children (age 7–17). The Museum is free for RJD members, as well as for EBT, Connector-Care, WIC, and Wundervund cardholders. The RJD gardens are open to the public at no cost and available to visit from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. Visitors are urged to go to rjdmuseum.org to book their Museum visit and to review the most current information on hours and programs.

About the James and Sarah Arnold Mansion
James Arnold came to New Bedford, Massachusetts to work for William Rotch, Jr., a merchant of the city. Arnold later became a partner and married Rotch's daughter, Sarah in 1807. In 1821, they erected a Federal-style brick mansion at 427 County Street and established extensive gardens on their 11-acre site. James Arnold was among a number of successful businessmen from the area interested in agriculture and horticulture and was one of the founders of the New Bedford Horticultural Society in 1847. On the weekends, and before there were any public parks, James and Sarah opened their private garden to the public, at the time an unusual and highly regarded act. In 1868, Unitarian minister William J. Potter called the Arnold mansion "a home the most conspicuous among all our homes for culture, for hospitality, for charity."

Although its extensive gardens are less than they once were, the lawn and historic shade trees provide a welcome respite from the surrounding hardscape of the city. The Wamsutta Club, founded in 1866, purchased the Arnold Mansion in 1921 and added large wings on the north, south, and west. Today, the James Arnold Mansion Inc., founded in 2016, pursues its mission to preserve the building and grounds for future generations to enjoy while also honoring the multiple legacies of Sarah and James Arnold.



Alltrust Credit Union Awards Scholarships



Alltrust Credit Union is pleased to announce this year's scholarship recipients. Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each were awarded to five graduating high school credit union members entering college as freshmen this fall.

The 2023 Scholarship recipients are: Mikayla Brightman, Bishop Stang High School; Kate Flannery, Fairhaven High School; Colleen McCarthy, Bristol County Agricultural High School; Emily Santos, Bristol County Agricultural High School; and Adriano Silva, Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School.

"We would like to congratulate these graduating seniors as they start their college endeavors," stated Carmen Sylvester, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Alltrust is proud to reward these hard-working students and assist in guiding them to success as their financial partner while they go through different life milestones."

Alltrust Credit Union congratulates our scholarship recipients and wishes all our student members the best in their future endeavors.



New Bedford Symphony 2023-2024 Season Unveiled

The New Bedford Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Yaniv Dinur are pleased to announce the 2023-2024 concert series, taking place at New Bedford High School's Bronspiegel Auditorium. Subscription tickets for the season are now available, and individual concert tickets will go on sale in August.

"I'm excited to present to you a concert season like never before. Never before – because we won't be at the Zeiterion this season (you might have heard it's getting a makeover). Never before – because we will be at the New Bedford High School. But mostly never before – because every live concert is a unique experience that never happened before and, once finished, will never return. That's the magic – and mystery – of the phenomena of music. I can't wait to see you at the symphony!" – Yaniv Dinur, Music Director

NBSO 2023-2024 SEASON: Passage

October 14: Three Worlds: Sydney Lee, cello

November 18: Beautiful Moments: Janice Weber, piano

December 10: Holiday Pops: South-eastern Massachusetts Youth Orchestras and Showstoppers

January 20: Movie Pops: Let's Get Animated!

March 16: Growth: Jesse Holstein, violin and Anna Griffis, viola

April 13: Many Contrasts: Katherine Chi, piano

May 18: The Way of Passion: Sergei Ba-

bayan, piano

All concerts will take place at the Bronspiegel Auditorium, New Bedford High School, 230 Hathaway Boulevard, New Bedford. Classical performances include pre-concert talks by Music Director Yaniv Dinur at 6:30 pm in the auditorium.

Subscriptions are now available. Subscribe to the full season (7 concerts) and receive a discount of 15% off ticket prices, while a discount of 10% is applied when you subscribe to your choice of 3 to 6 concerts. You can find complete concert details and subscribe online through the NBSO website (www.nbsymphony.org) or by calling the NBSO at 508-999-6276, ext. 222. Subscribe today to get the best possible seats and pay no ticketing fees. Individual concert tickets go on sale August 22. Details on our 2023-2024 South Coast Chamber Concert Series will be published soon.

Visit www.nbsymphony.org to relax, recharge, restore!

Do you have good news? Please email information to: info@onesouthcoast.com



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Diman Voc-Tech Students Get Hands-On Welding Experience, Win Prizes at PSI's Welding Competition



In an exciting display of skill, creativity, and craftsmanship, Diman Vocational-Technical High School students brought their fire to the first welding competition hosted by PSI. The event provided students with hands-on welding experience, challenged their problem-solving limits, and rewarded their exceptional talent with prizes. The competition took place in May in the Prefabrication Department.

Guided by PSI's expert welders Michael Souza, Nathan Castro, Sophia Benton, Malloy Logan, Ambra Arsenault and others, the Diman

students were tasked with designing and fabricating a unique metal creation within a tight timeframe of 60 minutes. The competition aimed to test their technical abilities and foster an atmosphere of friendly competition and camaraderie.

To ensure the students had the best possible experience, PSI went above and beyond in organizing the event. The students were shuttled to the competition in a PSI-chartered bus. Upon arrival, they were allowed to utilize shop equipment, hand and power tools plus any PPE required to ensure they had everything

needed to be safe and showcase their amazing talent. When the teams finally broke for lunch, PSI had a food truck provided by Green Jar Catering ready for them to dine and dash back to the winner's circle.

As the competition heated up, so did the excitement. The atmosphere was charged with anticipation as the clock ticked away. PSI's leadership and vendors were in awe as they watched each group of students skillfully manipulate their metal scraps and bring their imaginative designs to life.

When the time ran out, each entry was a testament to the trade skills the students learn at Diman. Their pieces showcased creative problem-solving and technical abilities, such as craftsmanship in every weld. The judges had the challenging task of selecting a winner from all the outstanding entries.

The grand prize was finally awarded to a masterpiece depicting a welded fisherman sitting atop a turtle, which, in turn, stood atop another turtle. "The competition was an incredible experience for both the students and PSI," said Jason Taylor, President/Owner at PSI. "In real life, working in the trades is equal parts skill, creativity, and problem-solving. The Diman students killed it. It was an honor to host this event and witness these future trades men and women in action."

The competition winners received valuable tools and equipment, generously provided by leading industry suppliers NEFCO, FW Webb, New Bedford Welding Supply, and Total Welding Supply, Inc. These com-

panies join in PSI's commitment to supporting the next generation of skilled tradespeople to gain hands-on experience. By collaborating with local educational institutions like Diman Voc-Tech, PSI actively contributes to the growth and development of the welding industry.

The impact of this competition extends beyond a one-time event. It inspires the students, encouraging them to pursue careers in welding and related fields. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of vocational education and the numerous opportunities available in the skilled trades.

As a forward-looking company, PSI fosters relationships with educational institutions like Diman to support initiatives promoting vocational training. The company has a long history of investing in skills and safety training for its students, interns, apprentices, and licensed contractor veterans.

About PSI: PSI is a leading mechanical contractor based in Assonet, Massachusetts. With over 53 years of industry experience, PSI specializes in process piping, fire protection, plumbing, refrigeration, HVAC, and electrical services. Known for its commitment to safety, excellent workmanship, delivering projects on time and within budget, and customer satisfaction, PSI has established a reputation as a trusted partner for commercial and industrial contractors.

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RECENT EVENTS



**Sunset Sip & Sail
New Bedford, MA**



**Sunset Sip & Sail
New Bedford, MA**

David McCready Announced as Southcoast Health President and CEO



The Southcoast Health Board of Trustees recently announced that David McCready, MBA, MHA, will join the system as president and chief executive officer of the Southcoast Hospitals Group on October 1, 2023, and succeed Rayford Kruger, MD, FACS as the next Southcoast Health System president and chief executive officer effective January 3, 2024.

McCready joins Southcoast from Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital where he has served as president for the past 5 years. In addition to his role as President of the Faulkner, he served for 18 years as a member of the leadership team at Brigham and Women's Hospital leadership team.

"On behalf of Southcoast Health, I am delighted to welcome David as our new president and CEO," said Donald Giumetti, Chair of the Board of Trustees for Southcoast Health System. "David is a remarkably collaborative and authentic leader bringing more than 25 years of experience in healthcare leadership to Southcoast Health. We know David will skillfully steer the organization through these challenging times in healthcare and ensure that Southcoast continues its

commitment to serve our patients, their families, and our community with the expert and compassionate care that is the hallmark of our organization."

As Southcoast Health's president and CEO, McCready will be responsible for the overall strategy and operations of the system and all subsidiary organizations. McCready will ensure organizational integrity, the provision of high-quality and integrated patient care, efficient operations, financial sustainability, and exceptional patient experience and outcomes across the entire Southcoast enterprise.

"I am truly honored to join Southcoast Health as its next president and CEO," said McCready. "Southcoast is a special organization with extraordinary clinical expertise combined with a deep commitment to truly caring for and about its patients and their communities. Southcoast has so much to be proud of, and I look forward to leading and supporting the organization as we continue to fulfill our mission of exceptional care and service."

Beginning in November of 2022, Southcoast Health engaged in a comprehensive and wide-ranging search, attracting interest from over 70 candidates nationwide.

"Throughout this process, we focused on identifying a strong leader who embodies the values of Southcoast Health and understands the unique needs and challenges present in our community," said Carmen Sylvester, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees for Southcoast Health System and Chair of the executive search committee.

"David's extensive hospital leadership experience and strong commitment to patient care positioned him as the ideal match for our system and community. After getting to know David during the search process, we are confident he will continue to build and strengthen a culture of respect and inclusiveness for all our valued staff and patients."

Giumetti added, "The Board of Trustees is extraordinarily grateful to Dr. Kruger for his service as president and CEO over the past year-and-a-half. Dr. Kruger's deep experience as a clinician, combined with his wisdom and leadership expertise, have allowed Southcoast to continue to thrive and focus on putting our patients first." Dr. Kruger has been a physician and leader at Southcoast for more than 30 years, having previously served

as the chief physician executive and as the physician-in-chief of surgical services.

Dr. Kruger will work closely with Mr. McCready for several months this fall to ensure a smooth and successful leadership transition, Giumetti noted.

Before joining BWH, McCready worked for several years as an administrative leader at Boston Medical Center and at Highmark Health in Pittsburgh, and as a management consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. McCready earned a master's degree in business administration and a master's in healthcare administration from the University of Pittsburgh. McCready and his wife of 24 years, Susan, have a daughter Kate—a high school senior—and a Labradoodle Gracie.



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SouthCoast Community Foundation Announces New President and CEO



Community Foundation's annual celebration, "Summer's Last Blast."

The executive search was extensive and robust, focused on finding a candidate with community foundation experience, strong South Coast roots, and the skills to lead and grow the organization's grantmaking. The recruitment and interview process included the entire Community Foundation staff and Board, who unanimously elected Edwards-Tavares to the role.

"Melanie is uniquely equipped to lead the SouthCoast Community Foundation – she has extensive experience in building a philanthropic program, exhibits deep dedication to racial justice, and is passionate about advancing the South Coast. I could not imagine a better person to lead the organization in its next phase of growth," said Board Chair Gail Fortes.

During her distinguished 30-year career, Edwards-Tavares has held leadership positions at nonprofits that include the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, Child and Family Services, PACE YouthBuild New Bedford, and the Massachusetts Service Alliance. In 2019, she earned her Doctorate from the Harvard University School of Edu-

cation with a focus on system-level leadership, strategic partnerships, and nonprofit sustainability.

"The Community Foundation is poised for exceptional growth under Melanie's leadership. She demonstrates innovative thinking around philanthropy as well as a commitment to improving opportunities on the South Coast. Her lived experiences add further richness to her already deep resume. I am so excited to see where she takes the Foundation," said former SouthCoast Community Foundation President John Vasconcellos.

Edwards-Tavares' work in the nonprofit sector traces back to her earliest career experiences. As a teenager growing up in the United Front Housing Development in New Bedford, she and her mother founded a grassroots organization, Positive Influence Peer Leadership Program, to teach young adults about social and civic responsibility. The idea was born out of a conversation with young teens in her family's living room discussing women's health and grew into an organized peer leadership prevention program for youth in New Bedford's West Central neighborhood.

Today, Edwards-Tavares volunteers

as Vice Chair of the Board of Big Picture Learning, an international nonprofit that supports student-centered education, and she is an Advisory Council Member at Education Reimagined, a national nonprofit transforming the public education system into a learner-centered education system. She was a Dean's Fellow at Harvard University (2016-19) and a Gordon M. Ambach Public Service Fellow (2017). In 2009, she received the Distinguished African-American Alumnus Award from Bristol Community College, and in 2001 was recognized with the New Bedford Heritage Award.

"I look forward to building on the Foundation's past successes and creating a shared strategic vision with our community partners that will translate into meaningful impact for many years to come," said Edwards-Tavares. "It is a powerful time to lead in philanthropy as the sector grapples with its origins, holding itself accountable to a role that transcends funding by leveraging influence and serving as a partner, collaborator, and advocate. I am excited about leading the organization at such a pivotal point in the Foundation's history."

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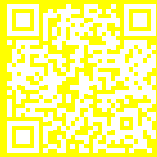
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Two Fall River Groups Got \$140K in Art Grants. Their Projects will Benefit the Whole City.

Dan Medeiros, *The Herald News*, Published July 13, 2023

FRACC

Fall River Arts & Culture Coalition

Interest in Fall River's art scene has grown substantially in recent years, and is about to get another major boost thanks to \$140,000 in state grant money.

MassDevelopment, the state's economic development finance agency and land bank, recently awarded what it calls Creative Catalyst grants to the Fall River Museum of Contemporary Art and the Fall River Arts & Culture Coalition.

FR MoCA received \$40,000 for its Cultural Pollinator program. FRACC was given \$100,000 for its Ignition Project, a three-part program that funds educational workshops, gives grants to artists, and develops space downtown for them to create or show their work.

FRACC Executive Director Ashley Occhino said people on her board can sense Fall River is at a turning point when it comes to investing in local artists.

"They are seeing this ground-level excitement that happened in Providence a generation ago before it became what it is now," Occhino said. "And they're seeing that here in Fall River."

Where does this money come from?

MassDevelopment's Creative Catalyst grants are funded by the Barr Foundation, a Boston based nonprofit philanthropic organization and one of the state's largest, with interests in education, climate science and the arts. MassDevelopment awards the grants to foster arts and culture in the state's Gateway Cities, with the aim of engaging the community, helping entrepreneurs and growing the local economy — the idea being, showcase a vibrant local arts culture, make a city an attractive place to live, and business will follow.

This round, Worcester and Fall River were the only Gateway Cities to get two grants each.

Occhino said that in and of itself is notable. "With these grants," she said, "it just shows that others outside of the community also see it and are willing to make this kind of investment."

What will FR MoCA use its money for?

FR MoCA's \$40,000 grant will be used for programming at its permanent exhibition space, 44 Troy St. — a building that until 2021 housed the century-old American Wallpaper & Design Center. According to MassDevelopment, the space will host contemporary

art shows and workshops, "in collaboration with Fall River Public Schools, New Bedford High School, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and others."

"A component of the project," reads a statement, "includes site-specific ecologically minded projects in North Park and on the Quequechan River Rail Trail."

What will FRACC use its money for?

The FRACC's \$100,000 grant will continue and expand its Ignition Project, a three-part system to educate artists, give them the funds to make their projects, and give them the space to create or showcase it.

Ignition ED is FRACC's free educational workshop series, teaching artists skills to be financially secure and stable "in ways that they don't really teach you in art school or music school," Occhino said — past workshops covered topics like project planning and marketing, and another coming up in September will teach tax prep.

FRACC's Ignition Fund offers artist grants to fund their projects. She said the timeline and application for more grant funding should be released around the end of the year.

The Ignition Space is a 700-square-foot storefront space being developed on South Main Street near the Viva Fall River Maker Shop. Occhino said it's a blank canvas that will be ready for artists to use however they

like soon this summer — but in the meantime, FRACC is taking applications to use it.

"We're inviting the community to submit proposals to use it," Occhino said. "Maybe you're a local artist and you're finishing up your degree. Some students don't always fall into the same timeline in college and maybe you need a space for your art show. Or you'd like to do a poetry reading. It's open for people to submit proposals of what they'd use it for."

"There's no cost to use it," she said. Information on FRACC's grants and programs is available on its website or by following their social media accounts.

Occhino noted proudly that the \$100,000 grant is the maximum amount MassDevelopment awarded.

"We can do three very substantial programs with it," she said. "I'm very excited. It's a substantial investment, which means we can make a substantial investment."

*Dan Medeiros can be reached at dmeideiros@heraldnews.com. Support local journalism by purchasing a digital or print subscription to *The Herald News* today.*

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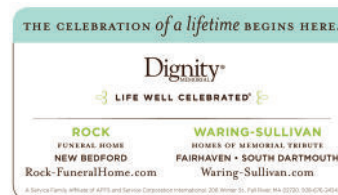
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