



For Immediate Release

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Small Business Resource Centers Assist College Entrepreneurship Programs



Lowell, MA On January 17, 2019, Franky Descoteaux, Director of Community Teamwork's *Merrimack Valley Small Business Center (MVSBC)*, presented at the Massachusetts Community & Banking Council's (MCBC) Economic Development / Small Business Committee at Eastern Bank in Boston. She presented the innovative ways in which Small Business Resource centers and technical assistance providers are amplifying the efforts of University and Community College Entrepreneurship programs. She discussed the need for prolonged support for entrepreneurs at all stages of business and presented opportunities for providing "beyond the classroom" coaching and technical assistance, with the goal of producing sustained economic value in Gateway Cities across Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Community and Banking Council brings together financial institutions, small business assistance providers, city and state agencies and others to promote the economic revitalization of low- and moderate-income communities in Massachusetts by providing insight, ideas and information designed to encourage small business lending and growth.

"My work continues to revolve around helping fellow entrepreneurs realize their dreams and contribute to our local economy. MVSBC serves entrepreneurs at all stages of development from pre-ideation to exit, with a particular focus on business model development, operations support and crisis management. The MVSBC provides one-on-one coaching, financial literacy training, digital marketing training as well as SBA microloans to businesses in Middlesex and Essex counties." Franky Descoteaux explained.

Frank Descoteaux has extensive experience in entrepreneurship (Founder of Humanity and Mambo Grill), public speaking, mentoring and is serving as an Adjunct Professor, Entrepreneur in Residence at the Middlesex community College. She received a B.S. in MIS from University of Nevada and an MS in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from University of Massachusetts Lowell. Ms. Descoteaux has been active as both a volunteer and board member of several civic and nonprofit organizations including Innovation Academy and Charter Schools in Tyngsboro.

Franky co-chairs the MCBC's Economic Development/Small Business Lending committee and will work along Charles Smith, SVP, Small Business Lending at Eastern Bank, to provide committee oversight and direction. For additional information about the MVSBC, please contact Franky Descoteaux at fdescoteaux@commteam.org. To learn more about the Massachusetts Community & Banking Council's Economic Development/Small Business Committee please visit <http://mcbc.info/economic-development/>

About Community Teamwork's Merrimack Valley Small Business Center (MVSBC):

Since 1998, Community Teamwork's Merrimack Valley Small Business Center (MVSBC) has provided business development services to entrepreneurs from ethnically and economically diverse groups within the Merrimack Valley with the training, tools, and resources needed to create, sustain, and grow viable small businesses. As an authorized Small Business Administration Intermediary Lender, the MVSBC provides financial support and credit building services through low-interest microloans, enabling business growth and stabilization, job creation/retention, and improved economic impact. The MVSBC works in partnership with UMass Lowell, Middlesex Community College, and the City of Lowell.

<http://www.commteam.org/how-we-help/finance-business/small-business-center/>

Located at 165 Merrimack Street, Lowell MA 01852, 978.654.573

About The Massachusetts Community & Banking Council (MCBC)

The Massachusetts Community & Banking Council (MCBC) was established in 1990 to provide a collaborative forum for Massachusetts financial institutions and community organizations to meet and share information with the goal of affecting positive change in the availability of credit and financial services in low and moderate income communities and communities of color across the Commonwealth.

<http://mcbc.info/>