



For Immediate Release
February 22, 2021
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MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE WELCOMES LAUREN JONES AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

The Massachusetts Business Roundtable – a public policy organization comprised of CEOs and Senior Executives from large employers across the Commonwealth – today announced Lauren Jones will serve as its new Executive Vice President. Lauren’s 15 years of professional experience spans local and state government as well as the private and non-profit sectors with a focus especially on economic development, workforce development, communications, and business marketing. She most recently served as the Massachusetts State Director of Apprenti, working with companies to cultivate and diversify tech talent.

“The Roundtable is thrilled to welcome Lauren to our team,” said Bob Rivers, Chair and CEO of Eastern Bank and Chair of the Roundtable. “She is a highly respected economic and workforce development professional with a unique background working with both government and business. Her skill set will be an enormous asset to the Roundtable and our members.”

As Executive Vice President, Lauren will be responsible for developing and implementing public policy strategies and initiatives, managing all internal and external communications, and undertaking organizational management responsibilities including serving as a liaison to external stakeholders, day-to-day operations, and member recruitment and engagement.

“I have known Lauren since her days in state government and she is a total pro,” said JD Chesloff, Executive Director of the Roundtable. “Her work experience in both the public and private sectors, her informed perspective from working with employers on issues of economic and workforce development, and the respect she has in our community will be invaluable to the organization. We are excited to have her on board.”

During the Patrick-Murray Administration, Lauren held several policy and communications positions including with Office of Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray, the Massachusetts Office of Business Development, and the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. After more than six years in state government, Lauren worked for Mayor Marty Walsh in the City of Boston during the mayor’s first term, most notably in launching and leading the Business Strategy Unit within the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development.

After managing partner programming for HUBweek’s 2018 festival, Lauren joined Apprenti to oversee all market and business development for the first-ever Registered Apprenticeship program for tech, connecting untapped, diverse talent to companies across industries to close the talent and

diversity gaps for IT jobs. Under her leadership, Apprenti expanded its hiring partnerships by more than 180%, working with Massachusetts employers to deliver tech apprenticeships for in-demand but hard to fill roles like Software Developers, IT Business Analysts, and Cybersecurity Analysts with 90% of apprentices placed identifying as women, people of color, and/or veterans. The Roundtable serves on the Apprenti Massachusetts Advisory Board.

“Lauren has been an exceptional member of the Apprenti team, and we owe much of our success in Massachusetts to her tenacity,” said Jennifer Carlson, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Apprenti. “Having an ally like Lauren serve in leadership at Massachusetts Business Roundtable will only bring more value and awareness to the benefits of apprenticeship programs to apprentices, hiring partners and the larger communities in which they operate. With Lauren at the helm, I’m eager to continue Apprenti’s work with the Roundtable and strengthen support for apprenticeship programs statewide.”

About The Massachusetts Business Roundtable

The Massachusetts Business Roundtable is a non-partisan public policy organization comprised of CEOs and senior executives from major employers that collectively employ more than 250,000 people across the state. The Roundtable works with business leaders and public officials to make Massachusetts a better, more competitive place to do business in the global economy. For more information about the Roundtable, visit www.maroundtable.com. For the latest updates and news on the Roundtable, follow on Twitter @MABizRoundtable.

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