



Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium

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The City of Peabody is the first municipality in Massachusetts to join the Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium as an associate member. MHEC, based in Amherst, Massachusetts, was founded 33 years ago by several public and private colleges and universities to collaborate on their purchasing needs. With changes to Massachusetts procurement laws allowing for new cooperative purchasing options to cities and towns, MHEC's members voted to amend the organization's bylaws and expand membership to municipalities and not for profit charter, technical and vocational schools throughout New England.

Peabody, as a new MHEC member, can purchase from 57 contracts with almost 500 global, national and regional supply partners including local, small, minority and women owned businesses. MHEC contracts are bid consistent with Massachusetts laws concerning public procurement and MHEC Contract Managers have all completed Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Officials (MCPPO) training.

"The City of Peabody is focused on achieving cost savings and creating efficiencies for our taxpayers. One way this has been done is by strategically partnering in cooperative bids and regional initiatives. MHEC makes sense at a time when we need to purchase smarter and stretch our limited resources. MHEC contracts provide the City of Peabody with a roster of more contracts and supply partners, with the knowledge that MHEC's sourcing and service, administered in our home state, is to the high standards the City expects, when evaluating new cooperative purchasing partners", said Daniel Doucette, Purchasing Agent for the City of Peabody.

"I welcome the City of Peabody as the first MHEC municipal member and hope that we can provide competitive contracts and excellent customer service to many more cities and towns in New England", said Ellen Bickelman, MHEC's Executive Director.

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