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*Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield, Inc. is comprised of:
The East of the River 5 Town Chamber
Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Professional Women's Chamber*

May 2013

e-Channels



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President's Message

We've had a busy few weeks here at the Chamber!

We had a packed house for our Lunch n' Learn program with Health Policy Commission Chair David Seltz! We know the cost of health care is of great concern to our members, and the Chamber is aggressively monitoring this issue and bringing together our members and key leaders on this issue so that you can continue to be part of the solution and the voice of business can be heard on Beacon Hill. We will continue to keep you informed and, in fact, the ERC5 will host a panel on this very topic as part of their annual meeting on June 7 at the Ludlow Country Club (see [below](#)).



Our April breakfast focused on the role of private and public higher education institutions in workforce development. According to a report by The Lumina Foundation, by the year 2018, 68% of all Massachusetts jobs will require some form of post-secondary education - that's over 700,000 jobs! Clearly, this is an important issue for our business community. Workforce Development/ Education is one of the Chamber's legislative priorities and the



May 7 - noon
Annual Meeting
TD Bank Conference Center

ACCGS' Legislative Steering Committee has established a subcommittee, chaired by Jennifer Connolly of Junior Achievement of Western Mass., Inc. to identify ways we can positively impact this issue. The Subcommittee is currently drafting its agenda so more to come! You can read the full Lumina Foundation report [here](#).

Nearly 200 people packed Twin Hills Country Club for the ACCGS/ERC5 Feast in the East, enjoying the signature dishes of nearly a dozen local restaurants and raising funds for the ERC5 Scholarship Fund, to provide educational funds and scholarships to students in East Longmeadow, Hampden, Longmeadow, Ludlow and Wilbraham. Take a look at our online photo album [below](#).

Nearly 100 business and community leaders attended our "Engage" event with Massachusetts Gaming Commission Chairman Stephen Crosby. Chairman Crosby was extremely informative as he updated the group on the licensing process, where we are now and where we go from here. The Chairman expects the sole western Massachusetts license to be awarded no later than February 2014. Stay tuned!

Another great day was had at our annual Beacon Hill Summit, the largest regional business summit at the Statehouse. Senator Gale Candaras pulled together a terrific line-up of Cabinet members, Administration staff and legislative leaders for this sell-out event. Look for a comprehensive wrap-up of the event in our June newsletter.

Two dozen business and community leaders graduated the ACCGS/Western New England University Leadership Institute 2013. The graduation dinner was capped off with the Davis Foundation being honored with this year's Institute Community Service Award and Kimberly Robinson Williams of Baystate Health receiving the Young Professional Society of Greater Springfield's Excellence in Leadership Award. Congratulations to all!

And TD Bank generously hosted a Small Business Networking Event for our members.

As you can tell, it was a packed month with programs for all industries, sizes and business interests. Didn't receive notification of these events? Join our mailing list by emailing [Cecile Larose](#) with your contact information and we will add you to our list!

Thank you to all our Chamber members who participated in these events and, until next time, thank you for your investment in the Chamber and we hope to see you at a coming event.



Celebrating Our Members

In this [special supplement](#) to e-Channels, look for news from Willie Ross School for the Deaf, Western New England University, Residence Inn Chicopee, Morrison Mahoney and more!

business @ breakfast
Making Chamber Connections

June 5 - 7:15 a.m.
Springfield College
Kirk Smith, president/CEO-
YMCA of Greater Springfield

PROFESSIONAL
Women's
CHAMBER

June 6 - 5:30 p.m.
The Cedars
Woman of the Year
Celebrating Jean Deliso, owner
of Deliso Financial and
Insurance Services

East of the River
ERC5
Five Town Chamber of Commerce
Longmeadow East Longmeadow Hampden Wilbraham Ludlow

Annual Meeting
June 7 - noon
Ludlow Country Club

To register for any of these events or for sponsorship information, please contact Cecile Larose by [email](#) or at (413) 755-1313

We welcome *your* news. Simply send your press releases to:

Editor, Chamber Channels
1441 Main Street
Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield
Springfield, MA 01103

Advertisers in this issue include: [Health New England](#), **Arbella Insurance/Harrington Insurance Agency, ACCGS Cost Savings Benefits.**

Advertising is available in both the print and electronic versions. Contact Nancy Creed by [email](#) or (413) 755-1309 for information.

Woman of the Year

Congratulations to Jean Deliso, owner of Deliso Financial and Insurance Services, on being named the Professional Women's Chamber Woman of the Year for 2013! The Woman of the Year award is presented annually to a woman in the western Massachusetts area who exemplifies outstanding leadership, professional accomplishment and service to the community.



A celebration in her honor will be held June 6 at 5:30 p.m. at The Cedars, 275 Island Pond Road, Springfield. Reservations are \$55 and can be made by contacting Cecile Larose at larose@myonlinechamber.com.

ERC5 Annual Meeting

The East of the River Five Town Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual meeting on June 7 from noon-1:30 p.m. at Ludlow Country Club. A panel of experts will discuss the impact the Accountable Care Act may have on our regional business community and economy.



As well, the Annual Meeting will include election of officers and directors of the ERC5 Board of Directors.

Reservations are \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for General Admission and can be made by contacting Cecile Larose at larose@myonlinechamber.com.

Shed Some Light...

on what you think of the decorative lighting fixtures in and around downtown Springfield. The City of Springfield is testing some new lighting aimed at increasing security, enhancing reliability, promoting nighttime activity, and achieving cost savings, and is seeking feedback from residents and the business community.



The Springfield Chamber of Commerce has volunteered to collect public comments through its Web site, www.myonlinechamber.com. The new lighting has been installed on a trial basis on a section of Main Street downtown between Worthington and Taylor streets, as well as at the entrance to Forest Park on Sumner Avenue. The public comment period is open until June 1, 2013. Follow this [link](#) to submit your feedback.

Stay In School Initiative

The Springfield Chamber of Commerce recently participated in a recent press conference with the United Way of Pioneer Valley. Read more inside our Celebrating our Members [special supplement](#).

Correction

In the April *Chamber Channels*, two of our members were inadvertently listed incorrectly. We apologize for the error:

Millbrook Benefits and Insurance Services, LLC

Peter Miller, Managing Partner
933 East Columbus Avenue, Suite A
Springfield, MA 01105
www.millbrookbenefits.com
Insurance (Main)



Rick's Auto Body, Inc.

Mari Tarpinian, Marketing Director
375 Pasco Road
Springfield, MA 01119
www.ricksauto-body.com
Automobile Body Repairing & Painting (Main)

Photo Gallery

- **April Business@Breakfast:** Dr. Carol Leary, president of Bay Path College, and Dr. Ira Rubenzahl, president of Springfield Technical Community College, helped us understand how public and private higher ed play a role in the future of our workforce. Special thanks to our sponsors Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, Westfield Bank, Consolidated Health Plans and Boys and Girls Club Family Center. View our online [photo gallery](#) !
- **Feast in the East:** Nearly 200 people feasted on foods from the north, south, east and west to raise funds for the ERC5 Scholarship Fund. Special thanks to sponsors Monson Savings Bank, Masiello Employment Services and ProShred Security. View our online [photo gallery](#)!

**Save
5%!**

Pet owners spend more than \$14 billion annually on veterinary care. As a benefit of your membership (for your employees, too!), the ACCGS has partnered with the Chamber Insurance Trust to provide pet insurance at a discounted rate of 5% - that's a savings of \$700 million!! For information or to get a free quote, visit www.chamberpets.com or call (877) 228-0981 and use our Chamber Referral Code: CIT.

**Offer valid for all ACCGS members and their employees
Use our Referral Code: CIT when inquiring**

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We welcome your feedback on this issue and any communications concerns you may have! Simply drop me a [line!](#)

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