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Women Making History Now Program

Framingham State

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WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Women Making History Now

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2016
4:30 P.M.
McCarthy Center Forum
Framingham State University
Senator Karen E. Spilka is the State Senator for the 2nd Middlesex and Norfolk district, which includes the towns of Ashland, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopkinton, Medway and Natick in the MetroWest region of Massachusetts. She serves as the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the committee that oversees the budget and finances of the Commonwealth. She also chairs the Biotech Legislative Caucus and the Tech Hub Caucus. Senator Spilka's legislative accomplishments include efforts in a broad range of areas including economic development, jobs creation, education, juvenile justice and services for the elderly and disabled communities.

Senator Spilka was first elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in the fall of 2001, where she served three years before her election to the State Senate in January 2005. In the Senate she has served as the Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, the Chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and the Majority Whip. Prior to becoming a legislator, Senator Spilka was in private practice as an arbitrator and mediator, specializing in labor and employment law and community and court mediation. In addition, she has been a facilitator and fact finder in disputes in the public and private sectors, as well as a social worker and trainer of adult mediation and school-based peer mediation programs, collaborative-based collective bargaining and conflict resolution strategies.

Senator Spilka is a graduate of Northeastern Law School and holds a B.S. from Cornell University. She has been married for over 35 to Joel S. Loitherstein, an environmental engineer, and has three children and two dogs.
Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernandez

Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernandez is the interim president of Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay). She was recently selected to be the next president of Cumberland County College in New Jersey.

Prior to her appointment as interim president, Dr. Salomon-Fernandez served as a dean and vice president at MassBay, overseeing the College's institutional research, grants development, strategic planning, and partnership-building work. In addition, she served as the executive officer for the Framingham campus, MassBay’s second-largest campus. She is credited with significantly boosting the College’s profile within the Greater Boston community and increasing MassBay’s engagement with industry leaders in the science and engineering fields and with regional colleges and universities.

Internationally, she has served as a consultant to the Bermuda Ministry of Education on K-12 assessment and accountability and accompanied the United Nations to Mexico as an election observer. She currently sits on the Executive Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Network of the American Council on Education’s National Network of Women Leaders, the MetroWest Chamber of Commerce, the MetroWest/495 Corridor Partnership, and is the former co-chair of the Governor’s STEM Council, College & Career Readiness Committee.

Salomon-Fernandez earned her Ph.D. in educational research, measurement, and evaluation from Boston College, her master’s degree in economic history from the London School of Economics, and her bachelor’s degree in political science and international relations from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. She is fluent in four languages: English, French, Haitian Creole, and Spanish.

Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad

Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad joined Framingham State University in August 2010 as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Focused on developing and retaining quality faculty and staff, strengthening new student preparation and early academic success, pursuing excellence and engagement in the academic experience, preparing students for global citizenship and competitiveness, strengthening and expanding STEM programs and student success in STEM areas, and responding to labor market trends in academic program and center development, she has presided over a successful five-year academic strategic plan that links these six university academic strategic priorities to grassroots initiative budgeting and assessment.

Dr. Vaden-Goad served on the Board of Directors of the MetroWest Chamber of Commerce and as a Trustee on the Board of the Wayside Inn. Prior to joining Framingham State (2002-2010), she served as the Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences at Western Connecticut State University. During her years as dean, she led successful programs dealing with college readiness, community collaboration, global studies, student/faculty collaborative research, new discipline-specific undergraduate research journals, fundraising efforts to support academic programs, and the creation of an endowed chair. Prior to her work in Connecticut, she was a social psychology professor and later department chair at the University of Houston-Downtown.

Dr. Vaden-Goad holds a PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Houston. She and her husband, Bob, a mathematics professor at Southern Connecticut State University, live in Framingham and they enjoy reading, hiking, backpacking, kayaking, and exploring new places.
Helen Lemoine

Helen Lemoine considers herself a “civic entrepreneur.” Both personally and professionally she is inspired by her community and driven to play an active role in strengthening it.

Lemoine is the Executive Director of Leadership MetroWest, a nonprofit community leadership development organization that builds civic leadership and engagement as an investment in the future of the region. Its signature program, the Leadership Academy, ensures MetroWest has a continuous pool of informed and collaborative leaders from every sector who move the region forward.

Lemoine currently serves on the Board of Directors of the MetroWest Nonprofit Network, the Framingham History Center, Amazing Things Arts Center, and the MW Chamber of Commerce. Lemoine is a Corporator of the Middlesex Savings Bank and a member of the Framingham Historic District Commission. She is on the Advisory Board of the MetroWest Economic Research Center and the MetroWest Y. Helen was an elected member of the Framingham Planning Board for nine years.

Several years ago, Lemoine was profiled in CommonWealth Magazine as one of eight prominent “civic connectors” in Massachusetts -- people with ties to many sectors and networks in the community -- who promote civic culture and collaboration. She is a recipient of the “Athena Award,” a national award given regionally, honoring women leaders who achieve excellence in their profession and give back to the community in a meaningful way. Lemoine and her husband live in Framingham and have two grown children and two grandchildren.

Jen Maseda

Jen Maseda is Chief Philanthropy Officer at United Way of Tri-County, serving more than 34 cities and towns in Massachusetts. In her role, Maseda oversees the Operations, Resource Development, Marketing, Public Relations, as well as the organization’s Community Investment Strategies in United Way’s four impact areas - Education, Health, Financial Stability and Basic Human Needs and the distribution of $5.2 million annually. During her 11 years with the organization, Maseda has led her team to raise more than $50 million.

Maseda is particularly committed to issues facing women and girls as evidenced by her role in the creation of the MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women, working with Senator Karen Spilka, the sponsor of the Bill that will help to address the current issues facing over 400,000 of our local female residents, and Maseda’s subsequent inauguration this past January, as a Commissioner on the MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women. Recently, you might have seen Maseda on Fox 25 or heard her on NPR or Radio Entrepreneur discussing Suburban Poverty in America, where she was in industry expert sharing solutions and insight. Recently, Maseda was awarded the Emerging Leader of the Year 2015 award from the MetroWest Chamber of Commerce, recognizing her impact in the MetroWest Region.

Maseda is a graduate of Harvard University with a Masters in Public Health and also holds a Masters in Science from Florida Atlantic University. She is a proud Latin American, born and raised in Miami, Florida. Maseda now braves the winters in Natick, MA with her husband and two children.
Diane Patrick

Diane Patrick is co-managing partner of law firm Ropes & Gray’s Boston office and the former First Lady of Massachusetts. She has over 30 years of experience representing and advising employers in connection with a broad range of labor and employment-related matters. For the past five years, Patrick has chaired the firm’s diversity committee. Ropes & Gray has been recognized nationally for its diversity; women make up about 40 percent of the attorneys in its US offices, and minorities account for roughly 17 percent.

Patrick provides strategic counseling to clients regarding their compliance with federal and state employment laws, represents clients before the National Labor Relations Board as well as other federal administrative agencies, counsels employers on matters involving wage and hour regulations, and provides general advice on employment policies and practices. Patrick has an extensive practice negotiating collective bargaining agreements, providing counsel on contract administration, and representing employers in labor arbitrations. In addition to her years in private practice, Patrick served for eight years at Harvard University as both University Attorney responsible for Harvard’s labor and employment matters and as the University’s Associate Vice President of Human Resources.

Her husband Deval Patrick served as Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 2007 to 2015. As First Lady, Patrick became a powerful advocate for victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse and has been credited with changing the landscape in Massachusetts that enables survivors to come forward.