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**AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION HONORS MCCA DIRECTOR**

***James E. Rooney Receives the 2008 Distinguished Public Administrator Award***

The American Society for Public Administration (MassASPA) and the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) today announced that MCCA Executive Director James E. Rooney has been named recipient of the organization's *2008 Distinguished Public Administrator Award*. The ASPA is the largest and most prominent professional association in the field of public administration. The *Distinguished Public Administrator Award* is presented to an individual who is acknowledged as a results-oriented leader and whose contributions may encompass individual exemplary accomplishment or a long-standing series of achievements in public service.

"I've been given the privilege to work my entire career in public service. I learned important life lessons very early on from my parents who encouraged me to set high standards for myself and to work diligently meet those standards," said Rooney. "They also taught me that leadership requires the ability to respond in situations that require initiative without fear. That lesson has served me well."

The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), established in 1939, is the largest and most prominent professional association in the field of public administration. With a diverse membership composed of practitioners, teachers, and students, ASPA has emerged as the focal point for intellectual and professional interaction, thereby serving as the principal arena for linking thought and practice within the field of public administration. The Massachusetts Chapter of ASPA (MassASPA) The MassASPA is a professional organization of managers, administrators and high-level professionals employed in federal, state and local government; administrators of non-government organizations and professors of public administration in Massachusetts.

"I asked Jim to join the MCCA as Director of Capital Projects and Development to help rescue the BCEC construction project, which was potentially \$100 million over budget and woefully behind schedule," said Gloria Cordes Larson, MCCA Chairwoman. "He not only led the team that brought us in on time and within budget, but subsequently, as Executive Director, transformed the MCCA into a model public authority for the Commonwealth. This well-deserved award gives me a wonderful opportunity to publicly congratulate Jim on the tremendous success the MCCA has become and in making the City of Boston a top destination for the convention and meeting industry."

“Jim Rooney is living proof that the best and the brightest can be attracted to public service and serve honorably and effectively. He is as good as any executive I've seen in my many years of working with the world's best leaders,” said Rosabeth Moss Kanter, the Ernest L. Arbuckle Professor at the Harvard Business School, former editor of the Harvard Business Review, and bestselling author of *Confidence* and *America the Principled*. “The people of Massachusetts are the fortunate benefactors of his talent. This award is richly deserved.”

The *Distinguished Public Administrator Award* was presented at the MassASPA Annual Dinner held Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at Maggiano's Little Italy during Public Service Recognition Week. . Notable past recipients include: Samuel Tyler, President of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau; Wayne Budd, Senior Executive Vice President And General Counsel, John Hancock Financial Services Inc.; and Vivien Li, Executive Director, Boston Harbor Association.

Currently serving as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA), Rooney oversees the operations of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC), the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the 1350-space Boston Common Parking Garage and the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA, which includes a 6,700-seat arena, as well as convention and meeting space. The MCCA exists to generate significant economic activity for the state by attracting conventions, tradeshow and other events to its world-class facilities in Boston and Springfield, and Rooney is responsible for its \$52 million annual operating budget.

Rooney has renewed the vision and management of the MCCA, closing the operating gap at the Hynes to its lowest in its 20-year history while opening the BCEC to rave reviews from customers. Since Rooney took over the MCCA, bookings at the new BCEC have exceeded projections and conventions at Boston facilities now generate \$435 million in economic impact for the Greater Boston area. In fiscal year 2008, the MCCA hosted at the BCEC and the Hynes 224 events with over 809,000 attendees that generated over 625,000 hotel room nights and over \$512 million in economic impact for Greater Boston. In addition, Rooney was named to Tradeshow Week's Power Pack as one of the top ten convention bureau or convention center leaders in North America.

He currently sits on several non-profit community boards in the Boston area, including President of Friends of the Fort Point Channel, Project Bread - the Walk for Hunger; The Children's Trust Fund; Save the Harbor, Save the Bay; South Boston Neighborhood House; and Federated Dorchester Neighborhood Houses, Inc.

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