

**DISCLOSURE OF APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 23(b)(3)**

	PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
Name of public employee:	Megan Marszalek
Title or Position:	Director of Entrepreneurial Ecosystems
Agency/Department:	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative – The Innovation Institute
Agency address:	75 North Drive Westborough, MA 01581
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	In my capacity as a state, county or municipal employee, I am expected to take certain actions in the performance of my official duties. Under the circumstances, a reasonable person could conclude that a person or organization could unduly enjoy my favor or improperly influence me when I perform my official duties, or that I am likely to act or fail to act as a result of kinship, rank, position or undue influence of a party or person. I am filing this disclosure to disclose the facts about this relationship or affiliation and to dispel the appearance of a conflict of interest.
	APPEARANCE OF FAVORITISM OR INFLUENCE
Describe the issue that is coming before you for action or decision.	The application period for The Innovation Institute's "Strong Entrepreneur Ecosystems" grant solicitation closed on April 1, 2022. An application was submitted by the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, on which Venture Forum is listed as lead partner. Venture Forum is an entrepreneur support organization based in Worcester, MA. I am member on Venture Forum's Board of Directors. The grant would fund a \$25,000 planning process over the course of six months that will result in a comprehensive strategic plan for the Southern Worcester county's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The Innovation Institute seeks to award 4 planning grants through the Strong Entrepreneur Ecosystems solicitation. Strategic plans created as a result of the planning grants will be submitted to MassTech for potential follow-on funding, up to \$200,000, to implement some or all of the recommendations made in the strategic plans.
What responsibility do you have for taking action or making a decision?	I serve as the manager for the Strong Entrepreneur Ecosystems funding opportunity and will be reviewing the proposals along with a team of internal and external reviewers. Although I manage the program, I am not the ultimate decision-maker and provide recommendations along with the other reviewers. I will refrain from reviewing or discussing Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce's proposal with any of the other reviewers.
Explain your relationship or affiliation to the person or	I have served on Venture Forum's Board of Directors since June 2021. My involvement with the organization is on a 100% volunteer basis. I have made no financial investment in the organization and receive no compensation from the organization.

organization.	
How do your official actions or decision matter to the person or organization?	The decisions made by the review team matters to the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and its partners (including Venture Forum) in whether the organization receives grant funding to help organize the stakeholders in its entrepreneurial ecosystem.
Optional: Additional facts – e.g., why there is a low risk of undue favoritism or improper influence.	There is a low risk of undue favoritism or improper influence in this instance as I will recuse myself from reviewing the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce's proposal and will refrain from discussing the proposal with the review team.
If you cannot confirm this statement, you should recuse yourself.	WRITE AN X TO CONFIRM THE STATEMENT BELOW. _x_ Taking into account the facts that I have disclosed above, I feel that I can perform my official duties objectively and fairly.
Employee signature:	<i>Megan Margolik</i>
Date:	4/12/22

Attach additional pages if necessary.

Not elected to your public position – file with your appointing authority.

Elected state or county employees – file with the State Ethics Commission.

Members of the General Court – file with the House or Senate clerk or the State Ethics Commission.

Elected municipal employee – file with the City Clerk or Town Clerk.

Elected regional school committee member – file with the clerk or secretary of the committee.