

NEWS

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from
**Paul
Tsongas**

For immediate release
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U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS

TSONGAS TO SPONSOR CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS/EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Senator Paul E. Tsongas, together with The New England Council and The Massachusetts Business Roundtable, will sponsor Striving For Excellence, A Conference on Business/Education Partnerships to be held Monday, November 21, 1983, at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. The purpose of the conference is to bring together Massachusetts' business and education leaders to plan a cooperative effort to strengthen public education.

Senator Tsongas, who has been working with a number of Massachusetts school systems on model programs to improve educational quality, will deliver the keynote address of the conference at 9:30 AM. The Senator has authored innovative legislation which will bring together the federal and state governments with the private business sector to offer programs that will improve the quality of scientific and mathematical education in our schools. The legislation is currently advancing and could become law in this Congress.

Senator Tsongas praised the foresight of The New England Council and The Business Roundtable in organizing the conference. "The business/education partnership can be mutually beneficial to both business and education," he said. "Education will benefit from industry's technological and service-oriented support. Business on the other hand, will profit by having a qualified work force available for the future."

The morning session of the conference includes the keynote address and a number of presentations by other speakers who will be introduced by Eric Swider, President of the New England Council. The luncheon speaker will be Governor Michael Dukakis and the afternoon panel sessions will cover topics such as, "Meeting Technology's Challenge in the Classroom", "Excellence in Education", "Existing Business/Education Partnerships", "Quality Teachers/Quality Work Force", and "Higher Education's Commitment to Public Education."

The conference comes at a time when the quality of education nationwide is under increasingly intense scrutiny. The National Commission on Excellence in Education, in their recent report, A Nation at Risk, stated that without vast improvement in our educational system, the U.S. will continue to perform less effectively against foreign competitors in the international marketplace. ~~Senator Tsongas~~ firmly believes that we cannot continue to allow that to happen. "We must organize all the resources of our community to ensure that it does not," the Senator said.

"This conference is an important step at a time when resources for education are severely strained and the need for quality is so great. I believe that we must pursue projects that bring greater collaboration between the schools and the business community. Such partnerships will do much to ensure quality education in our Commonwealth. Anything less is unfair to our youth and for our state," Tsongas concluded.

For reservations and information on the conference, call Cynthia Andersen at The New England Council, (617) 542-2580.

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