

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Rick McKenna

*Executive Director,
Framingham Economic
Development Corporation*

What was your first job and your current position?

My first major job out of college (Northeastern) was as an Advertising Manager for a major educational computing company, based out of MIT Computer Learning Lab in Cambridge. I moved up to the Director of Marketing position within a year. Presently I am the Executive Director of the Framingham Economic Development Corporation—with a focus on the Life Sciences and Emerging Technologies workforce development.

Why did you decide to join MWLSN?

When I joined the city's economic development team in 2022, I was struck by what I discovered through my initial research: Framingham was home to more than 40 life sciences companies and organizations, with many more throughout the MetroWest region. It became clear that our area had significant potential to become a major player in the U.S. life sciences market—particularly if we positioned ourselves as early adopters of applied AI integration in life sciences and health tech.

When a colleague told me about the MetroWest Life Sciences Network, I knew immediately that membership was essential. Joining would deepen my understanding of our local market dynamics and help me better support the growth of this vital sector in our region.

Why would you recommend this group to colleagues?

I would recommend membership in the MWLSN to anyone working within or alongside the life sciences ecosystem. The relationships I've built through this network have proven invaluable—not just for my own professional development, but for advancing the industry as a whole. In a sector where collaboration and connection are critical to innovation and growth, the MWLSN provides exactly the kind of community that drives meaningful progress.