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The Northeastern
Voice

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Home**CURRENT ISSUE****ABOUT THE VOICE****STAY IN TOUCH****ADVERTISE****Kerry lauds Northeastern for work on entrepreneurship**

By John Natale

U.S. Sen. John Kerry praised Northeastern's focus on practical business education during a downtown Boston event at the start of Entrepreneurship Week.

"Northeastern University is deeply involved in entrepreneurship and hands-on learning that helps people be able to go out and start a business," Kerry said during MassEntrepreneurship, a reception and seminar organized by Northeastern, the Massachusetts Technology Transfer Center and the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance.

Alliance executive director Phil Weilerstein singled out Paul Zavracky, dean of the School of Technological Entrepreneurship, as key to the weeklong series of events promoting business startups.

"Paul has been a driver of EntrepreneurshipWeek activity," said Weilerstein. "Without (his) input, we wouldn't have been able to make this happen."

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, in his opening remarks at the Langham Hotel, said the organizers and government leaders "come here with a shared purpose: to generate more opportunities for young entrepreneurs to start businesses in Boston and in the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"Boston is always moving forward," Menino said. "Falling behind is not an option. ... Our city needs all of your energy and creativity to stay ahead and create more jobs."

Kerry, who recently hosted a small-business expo at Northeastern, touted the role government can play in fostering business growth.

He also put entrepreneurial opportunity in the context of hot-button environmental and public-health issues. "The knowledge we now have with respect to global climate change is not just the material of Oscars," he said. "It is the material of major public policy. You want to talk about opportunities in innovation — this is the sector we should be getting into."

Entrepreneurship Week has been ongoing at Northeastern, with workshops, panel discussions and networking activities celebrating the creation and growth of businesses. Events have been open to both the university

community and those in Greater Boston interested in starting or promoting business opportunities. For a list of dates, times, and locations, visit <http://www.neu.edu/eweek>.

EntrepreneurshipWeek USA is a nationwide initiative for promoting entrepreneurship, comprising of 1,000 schools, businesses, and partnering organizations. The effort is co-sponsored by the Kauffman Foundation, a \$2 billion institution that advocates business creation and improving education.

EntrepreneurshipWeek USA events at Northeastern are sponsored by: Analog Devices, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, Charles River Ventures, EO Boston, First Light Capital, Foster-Miller, Highland Capital, North Bridge Venture Partners, and Boston's Office of Business Development, Northeastern's School of Technological Entrepreneurship and College of Business Administration, the Boston Public Library, Create BOSTON, Junior Achievement, The Music and Entertainment Industry Student Association, Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship and Northeastern's Center for High-Rate Nanomanufacturing.