*June 2008*

## Boston Metro Area Ranks High in Education Impact

*Boston area ranks in top four out of 50 largest metropolitan areas*

The fact that Boston and the regional economy benefit significantly from the institutions of higher education in the area is a well known fact. A May 2008 study released by the Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education (ARCHE) provides a comparative view of the collective resources available to the top 50 metropolitan regions from their local colleges and universities and reaffirms Boston's predominate position. The study considers the leveraging of the higher education resources as key to promoting economic prosperity, educating a skilled workforce and improving the quality of life.

ARCHE is a nonprofit organization created to strengthen government and business support for higher education in the Atlanta region. Its study measures higher education activity in the top 50 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) of the country. The higher education data is from the U.S. Department of Education for 2005. In the statistical profiles that are created in the study, Boston generally ranks in the top four. The one area that Boston scores low is for enrollment diversity. The rankings are based on absolute numbers, but were they adjusted on a per capita basis; Boston's rankings would be even higher.

The various profiles and the Boston MSA rank according to this study are shown to the right.

| Higher Education Rank in Top 50 MSAs | |
|---|---|
| Statistical Profile Category | Boston Rank |
| Total student enrollment | 4 |
| Faculty/staff employed | 4 |
| Federal grants/contracts | 1 |
| Research expenditures | 1 |
| Total higher education expenditures | 3 |
| Diversity of enrollment | 15 |
| Degrees awarded | |
|    Physical sciences | 1 |
|    Biological/life sciences | 2 |
|    Health/clinical sciences | 3 |
|    Math/statistics | 4 |
|    Business/management | 4 |
|    Engineering | 2 |
|    Computer/information sciences | 6 |
|    English/literature | 2 |
|    Education | 3 |
|    Theology | 8 |
| Total Degrees | 4 |

More information about ARCHE and the statistical profiles can be found at www.atlantahighered.org.