

Beth Nicklas, Esq.
Vice President and Counsel for Academic and Research Programs, Mass Life Sciences Center

Beth brings a diverse background of private and public sector experience to her position at the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. She has experience in legal analysis, regulatory and policy development, program management, and performance metrics. She spent 13 years working for quasi-public and state agencies, most recently in economic development, and served as a consultant to the federal government for 6 years with the Cambridge-based firm of Industrial Economics.

Beth developed, implemented, and manages the Center's \$12.6 million dollar Research Matching Grant Program which provides funding to academic institutions working in the life sciences. Funding includes grants for new investigators that are seeking to establish independent laboratories, faculty positions to attract star scientists to positions in Massachusetts, and industry-sponsored grants that encourage partnerships between university investigators engaged in translational research and life sciences companies seeking to commercialize new products. Beth was responsible for working closely with members of the Center's Scientific Advisory Board and developing a peer review process modeled on the approach used by the National Institutes of Health, generally considered the "gold standard".

Beth's other signature program is the Internship Challenge Program, designed to provide internship opportunities in the life sciences sector to undergraduates studying science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects. In the program's inaugural year last summer, the Center placed 104 interns from 29 colleges or universities in 59 research institutions and life sciences companies throughout the Commonwealth. This year, the Center's Board approved a 50% increase in funding for a second year of the program, with 10% of the internships targeted at community college students.

Beth also supports the other Center programs including the Accelerator Loan Program, the Small Business Matching Grant Program, and the Tax Incentives Program by drafting the solicitation documents and negotiating grant/loan agreements. She is responsible for ethics compliance and Board governance matters.

Beth is a graduate of Columbia University School of Law and holds a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. She was a recipient of the prestigious Bradford Fellowship awarded to outstanding managers working in state government, which pays full tuition at the Kennedy School, salary, and employee benefits during the study year.