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## **Greater Portland Economic Development Corp. formed-serves Portland, South Portland, Scarborough, Westbrook, Falmouth and Cape Elizabeth 6 communities**

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Greg Mitchell, Portland's economic development director, said that an organization linking private, educational and public institutions on behalf of Portland, South Portland, Scarborough, Westbrook, Falmouth and Cape Elizabeth has been formed.

The new corporation, the Greater Portland Economic Development Corp. (GPEDC), approved by each of the six communities, will serve as a single point of contact for businesses looking to locate, develop or expand in this six-community region. The organization will also develop the area's marketing program for business attraction.

Each community's economic development staff person serves as the designated municipal representative on GPEDC's board of directors. Filling out the board are representatives from educational institutions, from key industrial sectors and from the Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce.

The GPEDC launched its first marketing initiative at BIO 2011 in Washington, D.C., which was held from June 27-30. BIO 2012 will be held from June 18-21 in Boston at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. Visit <http://convention.bio.org/> for more information.

"GPEDC's primary marketing goals for the show included the identification of people, entrepreneurs and businesses that could add to or strengthen our growing bioscience sector," said Mitchell, who serves as Portland's representative on GPEDC's board of directors.

"While our primary mission may have been to prospect for companies, pulling together to prepare for this show also served to strengthen our regional collaboration and commitment," Mitchell said.

"In a focused and affordable way, we pooled our resources and made a huge step forward in demonstrating our ability to unite to increase the economic prosperity of the region."

"We walked away from the show with new ideas, new contacts, and most importantly, the potential for bringing new businesses and jobs to our region," said Mitchell.

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