

# A MESSAGE FROM...

Ron Sargent, Chairman & CEO, Staples

The Staples logo is a red rectangle with the word "STAPLES" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

that was easy:

January 7, 2009

Dr. Fred McKinney  
Greater New England MSDC  
4133 Whitney Avenue  
Building 4 Box 2  
Hamden, CT 06518

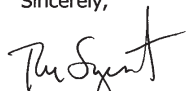
Dr. Fred McKinney and GNEMSDC Board of Directors,

I am pleased to congratulate you on the merger of the Connecticut Minority Supplier Development Council with the New England Minority Supplier Development Council. As Board members of both organizations, Staples shares in the excitement of this historic partnership, and the creation of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council. I am confident that the combination of both councils will produce many positive results for minority suppliers, corporate members and the new organization.

As you know, Staples recognizes and deeply values diversity as a business imperative. Our ongoing partnership with the new Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council will go a long way toward supporting the communities we serve as well as our belief in entrepreneurship and minority business development.

I wish you, the newly formed council, and its members much success in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Sargent".

Ron Sargent  
Chairman and CEO

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