



NEWS and VIEWS

JANUARY 2026

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NORTHEAST ACQUIRERS
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Letter from the Director

Dear MPC Community,

Happy New Year! As we step into January, the energy of a fresh start is palpable. 2026 promises to be a year of bold innovation and transformative growth across the payments and fintech ecosystem — and we're thrilled to embark on this journey with you.

The conversations and insights from recent gatherings have set the stage for what's ahead. From advancements in real-time payments and digital identity to the rise of embedded finance and AI-driven solutions, the opportunities before us are extraordinary. These trends aren't just shaping technology—they're redefining how businesses and consumers connect in a global, digital-first economy.

At MPC, our mission remains clear: to serve as your trusted hub for thought leadership, collaboration, and actionable insights. This month, we're spotlighting strategies for navigating regulatory changes, enhancing security, and leveraging innovation to drive growth. We'll also share

perspectives from industry leaders on what it takes to thrive in an era of rapid disruption.

Thank you for being an integral part of this dynamic community. Your vision, engagement, and expertise fuel the progress we celebrate today and the breakthroughs we'll achieve tomorrow. Here's to a year of innovation, resilience, and shared success. Let's make 2026 unforgettable.

Warm regards,



Marla Ellerman

Executive Director | [MPC - Money, Payments, Connections](#)

Publisher/Editor | [MMTMagonline.com](#)

Founder | [The Side Hustle](#)

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT



MPC Interview



MPC Interviews Alan V. Forgione of Northeast Acquirers Association (NEAA)

*Please tell us your name, title, company,
and email address to provide to
prospective participants interested in
receiving more information.*

Alan V. Forgione, President, Northeast Acquirers Association, alan@northeastacquirers.com.

What makes NEAA different than the other events out there in the industry?

NEAA stands out as the longest-running show in the payments industry, with a unique focus on the Northeast region. Unlike other industry events, NEAA is dedicated to serving merchant-level sales professionals by providing an affordable, accessible conference designed around their specific networking and educational needs. This regional focus allows us to tailor our programming and networking opportunities, ensuring attendees gain relevant insights, connections, and resources to succeed in the Northeast marketplace.

How would you describe NEAA's value proposition to prospective conference attendees, sponsors, and payment professionals?

NEAA offers an exceptional value proposition for conference attendees, sponsors, and payment professionals by delivering a comprehensive, low-cost event specifically designed for merchant-level

salespeople. Early-bird registration starts at just \$125, granting full access to:

- Educational sessions and panels led by industry experts
- Networking opportunities with over 130 leading vendors and fellow professionals
- All-inclusive meals, networking parties, and conference events

With everything included in a single, affordable registration fee, NEAA makes it simple and accessible for payment professionals to connect, learn about the latest trends and technologies, and discover new partnership opportunities—all in a focused setting tailored to the needs of the Northeast region.

What recent challenges has your leadership and board faced in serving the payment community and how did you overcome them?

Our leadership and board at NEAA are dedicated to serving the payment community, and while we haven't faced significant obstacles beyond logistical matters, these details are critical to delivering a successful event. The main challenges include identifying the right venues, effectively communicating event details to participants, and most importantly, curating a conference agenda that addresses the needs of both merchant-level salespeople and all payment professionals.

[READ MORE](#)

FEATURED VIDEO



What's it like to attend NEAA?

Don't just take our word for it.

Have a look at **Northeast Acquirers: 40th Anniversary Event (2025)**. Hear directly from sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees about why NEAA is the one event they never miss. It's where deals are made, partnerships form, and the right people are always in the room.

Ready to get involved? Visit our website to [learn more](#) and [sign up for email updates](#).

[WATCH HERE](#)



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Join the hustle. Expand your reach. Grow your business.

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

(re)view(s)

PODCAST



Are you missing out on \$100+ Billion in Cross-Border Stablecoins?

Tedd Huff, CEO of fintech advisory firm Voalyre, sits down with **Geetha Panchapakesan**, Founder and CEO of Tesser, to explore how stablecoins are changing cross-border payments for enterprises tired of slow, expensive banking methods. Recorded live at **Money 20/20**, this conversation cuts through the noise to address real pain points that treasury managers and CFOs face when moving money across borders.

MORE HERE

Tedd Huff is Founder of Voalyre, a professional services and advisory firm focused on global payments and banking. He is also a video podcast host and executive producer on the Fintech Confidential network. Over the past 25+ years, he has contributed to fintech startups as an Advisory Board Member, Co-Founder, and Chief Experience Officer, providing strategic and tactical direction for Global Payments OpenEdge, Heartland

Payments, Nuvei, and TSYS, among others, focusing on growth while delivering process improvements and user experience-driven value to simplify the complexity of payments.

POST



Teaching at Tetr College

by Nitin Gaur via LinkedIn

I recently had the opportunity to teach a class at [Tetr College of Business](#), and it was an incredibly rewarding experience.

I genuinely enjoy teaching because it keeps you sharp. Student engagement forces you to question assumptions, stress-test your own convictions, and move beyond comfortable narratives. At Tetr College of Business, the engagement was enormous. Bright, curious minds constantly challenged conventional thinking, and in the process, I learned just as much as I taught.

The course focused on one core question: if you strip away the hype, what actually matters about crypto and blockchain for the future of finance?

Teaching, for me, is one of the best ways to test whether ideas truly hold up in the real world.



If you strip away the hype, what should you actually understand about crypto and blockchain to stay relevant in the future of finance?

[This question] was the focus of a two-week deep-dive course at [Tetr College](#) led by [Nitin Gaur](#), designed to help students move from buzzwords to real-world understanding.

Rather than treating crypto as speculation, the course framed it as infrastructure, and here are a few takeaways that matter even if you're not building in Web3:

- **Fintech isn't about apps, it's about systems.**
Technology is quietly rebuilding financial rails that power payments, lending, identity, and trust.
- **Blockchain is a coordination tool.**
At its core, it enables multiple parties to agree on data without relying on a central authority.
- **Digital assets go beyond cryptocurrencies.**
Tokenization changes how ownership, liquidity, and access to assets work

across industries.

- **Web3 shifts power, not just technology.**
It redefines who owns data, how value is exchanged, and how digital economies are structured.
- **Regulation isn't a blocker, it's the next unlock.**
Understanding ethics, governance, and global regulation is essential for long-term adoption.

Across two weeks, students explored everything from fintech fundamentals and blockchain architecture to metaverse economies, regulatory challenges, and global business implications, always anchored in practical use cases, not theory alone.

This is how we approach emerging technology at Tetr: **clear fundamentals, real applications, and an honest look at what's coming next.**



Feb 4-5
NEAA (Northeast Acquirers Association)

Encore Boston Harbor
Boston MA

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MEET

at NEAA 2026

See you in Boston
BOOTH #12



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Feb 4-5
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March 18-20
Transact | ETA
Georgia World Congress Center
Atlanta GA

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March 30- April 1, 2026
Fintech Meetup
Mandalay Bay Convention Center
Las Vegas, NV

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 25-26

DeFi and Fintech Retreats (North America) | The Financial Club

Golden Gate Club

San Francisco CA

Feb 4-5

NEAA (Northeast Acquirers Association)

Encore Boston Harbor

Boston MA

Feb 4-6

Fintech Xchange | University of Utah

Hilton Salt Lake City Center

Salt Lake City UT

Feb 17-21

ETHDenver 2026

LVC at the National Western Center

Denver CO

Mar 17-18

DC Blockchain Summit 2026 | TDL (The Digital Chamber)

Capital Turnaround

Washington DC

Mar 17-20

Transact by ETA

Georgia World Congress Center

Atlanta GA

Mar 24-26

Digital Asset Summit | Blockworks

Javits Center North

New York NY

Mar 24-26

Fintech Americas

Hotel Fontainebleau

Miami Beach FL

Mar 30 - Apr 1

Fintech Meetup

Mandalay Bay Convention Center

Las Vegas NV

Mar 31 - Apr 1

Chainalysis Links 2026

New York Marriott Marquis

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