

Greater Lowell Tech hosts professional development day on textured hair

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TYNGSBORO — Instructors at Greater Lowell Technical High School recently underwent professional development training on textured hairstyles.

Last fall, revisions were made to the Chapter 74 Cosmetology Vocational Technical Education frameworks that focused on standards and objects to create a better understanding of textured hair skills. Training lasted a full day and was offered by the Office for College Career and Technical Education along with the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators.



Participants learned techniques to serve clients with textured hair and received lesson plans, rubrics and videos to help implement the new framework criteria into their curriculum and to help students build skill proficiency with textured hair.

Additionally, the training was designed to support the efforts of the Crown Act, which banned discrimination against a person on the basis of hair texture or style. The bill passed the state Legislature unanimously this month.

“This training is important so that our instructors will be able to educate our future cosmetologists on how to care for specific hair types,” Superintendent Jill Davis said. “That proficiency will lead to greater opportunity for our students, and greater success after graduation.”

Among the participants from Greater Lowell were instructors Emely Ciocca, Michelle Mills, Michelle Norton and Connie Vergados.

In addition to instructors from Greater Lowell, 25 cosmetology instructors from vocational high schools across the state joined in for the training. State Rep. Rady Mom, D-Lowell, a Greater Lowell Technical High School alumnus, was also in attendance, offering his support for the training.

Retired Greater Lowell teacher Deborah Lagasse led the state training team, which included eight Massachusetts Cosmetology Framework subject matter experts who received training specific to textured hair leading to become state-certified trainers:

- Melissa Andrade and Courtney Pestana of Cape Cod Regional Technical High School
- Tammy Hoyle and Kimberly Parnell of Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School
- Jennifer Gilman of Smith Vocational Agricultural High School
- Janice LaVoie of Blue Hills Regional Technical School
- Rhonda Moran of Lower Pioneer Valley Career and Tech Center
- LaTrelle Pinkney of Chase-Madison Park Vocational Tech High School

