

Mayor awards Greater Lowell Tech float at City of Lights Parade



Brad Taylor, Greater Lowell Tech groundskeeper and Patrick Couillard, a carpentry teacher, pose with the Mayor's Award in front of the float created by students for the City of Lights Holiday Parade.

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LOWELL — The Mayor's Award for Best of Parade went to a float created by students at Greater Lowell Technical School for Lowell's City of Lights Holiday Parade on Saturday.

The float depicted various scenes from the popular television special, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," including Lucy's snow globe stand. This was a nod to the theme of this year's event: Festival of Snow Globes.

"Students always look forward to the challenge of designing and building a float for the parade, which provides a special opportunity for them to collaborate with peers in other technical programs and showcase their hard work to the public," Superintendent Joseph Mastrocola said in a press release.



Greater Lowell Tech students designed and built "A Charlie Brown Christmas" themed parade float for the City Lowell's 31st Annual City of Lights Holiday Parade

Planning for the project began in October and was overseen by carpentry instructor Patrick Couillard. Students from different programs at the school collaborated on the float, giving students a better understanding of working with subcontractors, according to the press release.

"The project required teamwork and helped me gain a better understanding of having to work with other trades on a project,"

said Brady Huard, a senior and Dracut resident.

Carpentry students built the wooden structures on the float and installed lighting and trim. CADD students used illustrations of characters from Peanuts to create files to be printed by a computer numerical control, or CNC, machine. The float was painted by painting and design students, electrical students wired the lighting and plumbing students threaded the holders for props and speakers.

The 31st annual parade through downtown Lowell was attended by thousands of spectators and featured floats, music, marching bands and performances.