

Greater Lowell Tech has a lot planned with \$381,000 grant



From left: Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy; Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rosalin Acosta; Greater Lowell Tech Director of Cooperative Education Stacy Bezanson; Greater Lowell Tech Director of Technology, Enrollment and Information Lisa Martinez; Greater Lowell Tech Superintendent-Director Joe Mastrocola; and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito.

TYNGSBORO — Greater Lowell Technical High School has received a \$381,000 Skills Capital grant from the Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet (WSC).

The grant was presented to school officials including Superintendent Joseph Mastrocola at a recent ceremony at Worcester Technical High School.

According to a release, Skills Capital grants are awarded to organizations that offer and are looking to expand skills training opportunities that are in high demand in the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts WCS (which was created by Gov. Charlie Baker through an Executive Order) is “charged with creating and implementing a strategy to ensure that individuals can develop and continuously improve their skills and knowledge to meet the varying hiring needs of employers across the Commonwealth,” according to the Mass. government website.

Greater Lowell Tech administrators hope to, as a result of the new grant, nearly double the number of senior students graduating from several Allied Health Services Programs at Greater Lowell Tech over the next three years. They also plan to increase the school’s number of adult graduates of Health Services Programs by 25

percent. Greater Lowell Tech's Health Services Programs include its Medical Assisting, Nursing Assisting, Pharmacy Technician Certification and the Post-Secondary Nurse Program, according to the release.

"This grant will allow us to expand and modernize our patient care training stations to allow for increased enrollment as well as the inclusion of simulation centers with a range of easily accessible learning opportunities," Mastrocola said in a written statement. "We will upgrade several learning spaces with furniture and instructional equipment that will allow for better collaboration, the use of technology found in health care settings and advanced skill training for students."

The funding from the grant will also go towards:

- Allowing Greater Lowell Tech to launch an EMT Program during the 2020-2021 school year. The purchase of a fully functioning ambulance will allow the school to begin offering emergency medical training according to the release.
- Creating a SIM lab equipped with simulation mannequins capable of simulating a variety of clinical situations, as well as medical record software and mobile patient documentation and medication administration carts.
- Outfitting of two new STEM classrooms for the school's medical assistant program, which according to the release will allow instructors to transition quickly and seamlessly from laboratory to classroom work.

There are also plans to move the individual health services classes and programs to a Health Services Wing, the release states. That transition is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2020.

"Greater Lowell Tech is also in the process of expanding its partnership with CVS to allow more Medical Assistant students to access new Pharmacy Technician training opportunities, and the school also has a new partnership with Trinity Ambulance," the release states. "Greater Lowell Tech is also working to develop additional community partnerships, in addition to its existing partnerships with Wingate at Belvidere and the D'Youville Senior Living Community."