

Grant will help to update Greater Lowell Tech's IT, web programs

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Front row, from left, GLTHS Information Technology Instructor Paul Pesce; Peggy Sarmiento, Technology/Allied Health Cluster chair; Lisa Martinez, director of technology, enrollment & information; Superintendent Joseph Mastrocola and School Committee member Paul Morin of Dracut. Back row, Mike Kennealy, secretary of Housing and Economic Development; School Committee member Curtis LeMay of Lowell, and Gov. Charlie Baker. Courtesy Photo

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TYNGSBORO -- Greater Lowell Technical High School recently received a \$68,503 Skills Capital Grant from Gov. Charlie Baker to support its Information Technology/Programming and Web Development programs.

Skills Capital Grants, which are administered through Gov. Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito's administration, are designed to help high schools, colleges and other educational institutions invest in the most up-to-date training equipment to give their students an advantage when they continue in their chosen field or particular area of study. The awards cover a broad range of fields, from construction and engineering to health care and hospitality.

During a ceremony at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School in Billerica, Baker, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy and Secretary of Education James Peyser recognized grant recipients.

Baker spoke of the competitiveness of the Skills Capital Grants, recognizing the schools that earned grants due to their successful programming and relationships with local employers and businesses.

"I am constantly amazed and impressed with the quality of the students and the quality of the programming that I see when I have a chance to spend some time at these schools," the governor said.

Students in GLTHS's Information Technology/Programming and Web Development programs earn industry-recognized credentials and complete Advanced Placement Computer Science courses.

GLTHS plans to partner with the Greater Lowell Workforce Board to provide training opportunities to adults through its evening school and workforce training programs.

"This Skills Capital Grant will be essential in allowing us to expand our programming to address the need for information-technology professionals in our area," Superintendent Joseph Mastrocola said. "Thank you to the Baker-Polito administration for recognizing this need and supporting GLTHS with our endeavor to train the next generation of cybersecurity professionals."

Funding from the grant will allow Greater Lowell Tech to purchase equipment to furnish a state-of-the-art computer lab with 18 student training stations, 20 computers and materials for networking, security and cyber operations.

"This grant will further help us prepare students for post-secondary education and careers," said Peggy Sarmiento, cluster chair for Technology/Allied Health. "Our students are excited about the program, and what they learn is directly aligned with current events surrounding cyber security."

IT Instructor Paul Pesce added: "With the additional resources we will receive through the Skills Capital Grant, we will continue the pathway for Department of Defense initiatives pursuant to cybersecurity. The career opportunities in this industry are astronomical. Every company across all industries needs protection."