

Greater Lowell Tech grant will boost technology

The Lowell Sun

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TYNGSBORO -- Gov. Charlie Baker recently visited Greater Lowell Technical High School to award \$466,000 to the school to create a 21st-century Agile Digital Fabrication/Maker Space where high-school and adult-education students can engage in technological experimentation, hardware development and idea prototyping.

The space will provide high-production, finish-level and product-design 3-D printing capability in the Engineering Technology and Computer Aided Drafting and Design programs.

GLTHS received \$493,000 in funding through this grant program last year and successfully completed its Precision/Advanced Manufacturing Center project on time and on budget.

Four students from the CADD and Engineering Technology programs accepted the award on behalf of the school.

"This training and opportunity to use authentic, state-of-the-art technology allows me to build my own future that will help me in the workplace after graduation," said Gabriel Pena, a junior in the CADD program.

Gabriel plans to attend UMass Lowell to major in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Plastics Engineering.

Gabriel added that future students at Greater Lowell Tech "will benefit from the new technology in the CADD and Engineering Technology programs, which will make them a step ahead of other students pursuing the field."

Three years ago, GLTHS sought and received M.G.L.

Chapter 74 approval to start an Engineering Technology program specifically targeted to meet the labor market's demand for engineers to support the advanced-manufacturing industry as well as provide students with an additional high-skill/high-demand STEM career-pathway option.

This project will vastly expand the hands-on applications lab environment and accelerate the experiential learning process through the addition of cutting-edge digital fabrication and electronics equipment, such as 3-D printers, fusion laser engravers, CNC wire benders, CNC light-duty lathes and mills trainers, wind tunnels and Servo robot trainers.

Although the school's Engineering Technology and Computer Aided Drafting and Design students will regularly share the use of the new Agile Digital Fabrication/Maker Space, it will also be accessed by students enrolled in the Electronics Technology and Machine Technology) advanced-manufacturing programs, as well as adult learners in the evening.



At the grant ceremony at Greater Lowell Tech are, from left, Ronald L. Walker II, secretary of Labor & Workforce Development; students Gabriel Pena and Araceli Lopez; Gov. Charlie Baker, secretary of Housing & Economic Development; student Sokhontheary Var; Jay Ash, secretary of Housing & Economic Development; student Alvin Tran; and Jim Peyser, secretary of Education. COURTESY PHOTO

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