



## Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District

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The Baker-Polito Administration recently awarded \$10.9 million in Skills Capital Grants to 33 high schools and educational institutions, including a \$500,000 award to Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School in Fitchburg. The school's successful grant will support the Electrical, Engineering and CAD/Drafting & Design programs, and will fund a state-of-the-art A.R.M. (Automation, Robotics, and Mechatronics) Lab and an Advanced Rapid Fabrication Lab in response to regional workforce needs, student interest, and the critical shortage of high-quality electronic system control and fabrication training programs in the area. These new training spaces are intended to replicate working and learning environments maintained by industry leaders in advanced manufacturing and automation.

"The Skills Capital Grant program is truly changing the face of vocational-technical education in Massachusetts. We have been able to update and purchase new equipment in several shops thanks to similar grants in recent years. This award, the largest in the school's history, will benefit students in our Electrical, Engineering and CAD Drafting & Design programs," said Dr. Sheila Harrity, Superintendent of Monty Tech, of the recent award.

The competitive grants are awarded to educational institutions that demonstrate partnerships with local businesses, as well as align curriculum and credentials with industry demand, in order to maximize hiring opportunities in each region of the state. "The equipment purchased by high schools and colleges over the past three years through Skills Capital Grants has directly impacted the educational experience for thousands of Massachusetts students to better prepare them for the workforce," Governor Charlie Baker said. "This program has had a positive impact on students in the Commonwealth and we look forward to working with the Legislature to include \$75 million worth of funding for Skills Capital Grants as part of the Economic Development bill we filed in the spring."

"Schools that receive these competitive grants are giving their students a head start by creating relationships with local employers who provide input and expertise about the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful in the future," Education Secretary James Peyser said.

Students in Monty Tech's Electrical, Engineering and CAD Drafting and Design programs will benefit from this generous grant as early as this school year. School officials are working to create the state-of-the-art automation and fabrication labs, which will include a variety of equipment and technology used to train students (both high school and non-traditional) interested in careers in advanced manufacturing and automation. Using this new equipment students will prepare to become manufacturing technicians, robotics technicians, automation technicians, moldmakers, and CNC machinists at local corporations, filling the existing skills gap across these industries.

The Skills Capital Grants are awarded by Governor Baker's Workforce Skills Cabinet. Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito created the Workforce Skills Cabinet in 2015, bringing together the Secretariats of Education, Labor and Workforce Development, and Housing and Economic Development in order to align education, economic development and workforce policies, and to strategize around how to meet employers' demand for skilled workers in each region of the state.

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