

State awards workforce training grants for advanced manufacturing jobs to 8 Massachusetts organizations

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Gallery: Franklin Tech wins grant for machine shop training

By [Mary C. Serreze](#)

Special to The Republican

MONTAGUE -- Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito appeared at Franklin County Technical School on Tuesday, where she awarded \$1.33 million to eight workforce training organizations through the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program.

The program focuses on reaching veterans, groups with chronically high unemployment, and other adults historically underrepresented in the manufacturing sector, and helps people gain marketable skills.

The grants were awarded by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development on behalf of the Governor's Workforce Skills Cabinet, building on \$9.5 million in Workforce Skills Capital grants awarded earlier this year.

"Today's announcement continues to build on our investments in technology, equipment and education for high-school students and adult learners from Boston to Pittsfield," said Polito.

She said the Baker administration is committed to "closing the skills gap" between Massachusetts residents and the needs of the manufacturing sector.

The event was held at Franklin Tech's state-of-the-art machine shop, recently refurbished and modernized thanks to major contributions from the local business community, supplemented by state grants.

Rob Savage, president of Hassay Savage Broach, which manufactures precision cutting tools, is one of several who contributed money to Franklin Tech.

"It's all about making a product that will sell, and the quality has to be there," he said. "That's why we are happy to support this type of education."

Patricia Crosby, executive director of the Hampshire-Franklin Regional Employment Board, said making Franklin Tech's computer-aided machine shop available to adult learners helps people learn valuable skills while supporting the needs of employers.

Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta said jobs in the STEM fields -- "science, technology, engineering, and math" -- pay good wages.

Also speaking were Greenfield Community College President Robert Pura, Montague Town Administrator Steven Ellis, and others.

"We are blessed to have an educational facility such as this in our community," said Ellis.

The awards were: \$207,900 to the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County; \$138,600 to the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board; \$84,150 to the Franklin Hampshire County Regional Employment Board; \$212,850 for the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership, with Central and North Central Regional Employment Boards; \$272,250 for the Metro North Regional Employment Board; \$89,100 for the Center for Manufacturing Technology; \$103,950 for the Essex County Community Organization and \$227,700 for the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board.



A machine technology student at Franklin Tech demonstrates equipment for Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito on Oct. 18, 2017.



Franklin Tech Superintendent Rick Martin



Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rosalin Acosta chats with Greenfield Community College President Bob Pura.



Franklin Tech machine technology students Jonathon Pichette, Jason Torres, and Kyle Roy attended the event.



Greenfield Community College President Bob Pura; Mike Knapik, who heads Gov. Charlie Baker's Springfield office; Montague Town Administrator Steven Ellis; and Franklin Tech Superintendent Richard Martin.