



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
Press Release**

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**Baker-Polito Administration Celebrates \$2.9 Million in
Workforce and STEM Grants to Educational
Institutions in Central Massachusetts**

Massachusetts Life Sciences Center capital grants will grow the innovation economy and prepare a trained workforce

Gardner - February 28, 2017 - Today Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito joined Massachusetts Life Sciences Center President and CEO Travis McCreedy, local elected officials, and officials from Central Massachusetts educational institutions, to celebrate \$2.9 million in capital grant funding for regional workforce development and STEM education projects. The grants, from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC), advance the Baker-Polito Administration's commitment to build a highly trained workforce and seed job creation in regions across Massachusetts.

Lieutenant Governor Polito celebrated the regional grant awards at a ceremony at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner. Mount Wachusett is receiving over \$1.6 million in MLSC grant funding, enabling the college to renovate and equip a new medical laboratory facility, and significantly improving the quality of hands-on training for students.

The awards are part of a statewide grant round that is delivering a total of \$39 million in MLSC capital grants to 14 research and educational institutions, and 49 middle and high schools, across Massachusetts.

"Investments in the vitality of the Massachusetts workforce are critical to ensuring long-term growth in our economy," **said Governor Charlie Baker.** "Our ongoing efforts to deliver a high-quality STEM education to middle- and high-school students, and our focus on delivering impactful workforce training opportunities at community colleges and

other institutions of higher education, will allow Massachusetts residents to access quality careers in growing fields, including robotics, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and biotechnology.”

“These capital grants from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center deepen our administration’s efforts to build vibrant regions, from Cape Ann to the Berkshires,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. “By training middle school and high school students on state-of-the-art STEM equipment, and creating new pipelines for workforce development and scientific breakthroughs, these awards will create new economic opportunities in Central Massachusetts, and help build a stronger Commonwealth.”

“One of our capital investment plan priorities is to make strategic investments in the future workforce of the Commonwealth, including STEM programs for our students,” **said Administration and Finance Secretary Kristen Lepore**. “By awarding these capital grants today, the administration is once again leveraging our resources to invest in the Commonwealth’s growing biotech industry.”

“Massachusetts is building the nation’s most competitive economy by investing in workforce development, and in the infrastructure of innovation,” **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash**. “By constructing new science and technology laboratories in Framingham and Gardner, and improving the quality of STEM education for students in Fitchburg, Franklin, Northbridge, Warren, Webster and Worcester, these awards will help make Central Massachusetts a more dynamic place to live and work, and they will equip local residents with the skills needed to retain our title as the most innovative state in the nation.”

“The MLSC continues to make major capital investments to support education and training at academic institutions across the entire Commonwealth in order to meet the workforce needs of our state’s fastest-growing industry,” **said Travis McCready, President and CEO of the MLSC**. “Our capital grants will enable Mt. Wachusett Community College, Framingham State University and Dean College to significantly enhance their capacity for workforce training, so that our students will be better prepared for career opportunities in the life sciences. Through our STEM equipment and supply grants, area high schools and middle schools will be better positioned to connect students with jobs in the fast-growing Massachusetts life sciences ecosystem. In both cases, we are excited to play a role in supporting economic growth and workforce preparedness in Central Massachusetts.”

“This grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center will allow us to equip a state-of-the-art medical laboratory technology classroom and create a new life sciences lecture room,” **said Mount Wachusett Community College President Daniel M. Asquino**. “These improvements will allow us to better serve numerous science, medical

and liberal arts students as well as expand the medical laboratory technology program that prepares graduates for the high-demand medical and clinical laboratory technician field.”

“I want to thank the Baker-Polito administration for awarding schools in my district with STEM grants that will be used to train and prepare students for the workforce that lies ahead,” **said Senator Jennifer Flanagan**. “These investments, specifically in areas of science and technology, are critically important for the future of the Commonwealth, and these students will be well prepared to lead the way.”

“MWCC continues to stay ahead of the curve in preparing and educating its students with a truly 21st century education, and this is another excellent example of that,” **said Representative Jonathan Zlotnik**. “Congratulations for this very well deserved grant.”

Funding for the awards is drawn from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center’s Competitive Capital Program, and the Center’s competitive STEM Equipment and Supplies Grant Program.

The MLSC’s Competitive Capital Program provides grants for capital projects that support the life sciences ecosystem in Massachusetts by enabling and supporting life sciences workforce development and training, research and development, commercialization and manufacturing in the Commonwealth. The program funds high-potential economic development projects by nonprofit entities that make significant contributions to the state’s life sciences ecosystem. To date, the MLSC has awarded or committed more than \$405 million to support capital projects across the state.

The MLSC’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Equipment and Supplies Grant Program funds the purchase of equipment and supplies for high schools and middle schools in the Commonwealth. The program helps schools train students for life sciences careers, increase student achievement and student interest in STEM fields, and support the implementation of the state’s STEM standards. The competitive program is open to vocational-technical high schools, public high schools and middle schools located in Gateway Cities, and public high schools and middle schools with economically disadvantaged student populations. To date, the STEM Equipment and Supplies Grant Program has awarded more than \$16.3 million to 149 different schools and organizations throughout Massachusetts, and leveraged more than \$1 million in matching funds from industry partners.

Central Massachusetts Regional 2017 MLSC Competitive Capital Awards:

Dean College, Franklin - \$297,030

Dean College will update its laboratory equipment and training programs to expand STEM programming for the college's diverse student community, and develop new courses in biotechnology and molecular biology.

Framingham State University, Framingham - \$454,000

Framingham State University will use MLSC capital funds to advance the completion and equipping of 16 new state-of-the-art biology and chemistry laboratories, and to equip classroom space for other STEM-focused academic programs, including mathematics and computer science.

Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner - \$1,646,787

MLSC grant funding will allow MWCC to renovate and equip classroom space, upgrading aging and outdated equipment, and launching a new Medical Laboratory Technology/Clinical Laboratory Science facility. These upgrades will bring the program up to current industry standards, allowing MWCC to increase the number of life sciences courses it can offer and enhance current programs.

Central Massachusetts Regional 2017 STEM Equipment Awards:

Bartlett High School, Webster - \$16,112

Bartlett High School will purchase handheld computing devices, an interactive SMART Board and related software. This equipment will give students the necessary resources to gain a deeper understanding of abstract concepts in math and computer science.

Goodrich Academy, Fitchburg - \$105,345

Goodrich Academy will use MLSC grant funding to fully equip a new high school STEM lab, allowing students to train on technical equipment related to studies in biology, chemistry, physics and bioethics. Students will gain experience in data-gathering, interpretation and science-writing, and Goodrich Academy will further modernize its curriculum.

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, Fitchburg - \$99,697

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School will expand its life sciences course offerings to including Principles of Biomedical Science and Human Body Systems. Students will gain hands-on training in a renovated laboratory environment that replicates industry standards.

Northbridge High School, Northbridge - \$110,000

Northbridge High School will use MLSC funds to complete the build-out of a biotechnology lab with new equipment, including digital microscopes, micropipettes, DNA electrophoresis, and centrifuges.

Quaboag Middle Innovation School, Worcester - \$50,000

Quaboag Middle Innovation School will use MLSC funds to purchase new textbooks and materials, including robotics kits which will engage students in an activities-oriented curriculum to increase exposure to STEM related fields.

Sizer Charter School, Fitchburg - \$14,780

MLSC grant funding will allow Sizer Charter School to purchase a 3D printer capable of printing a large volume of objects quickly, allowing students to gain experience with 3D design and rapid prototyping.

South High Community School, Worcester - \$91,609

South High Community School will use MLSC grant funding to implement Texas Instrument Nspire technology and upgrade equipment in secondary science classrooms to create a streamlined curriculum for students in Worcester's middle and high schools.

About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is an investment agency that supports life sciences innovation, education, research and development and commercialization. The MLSC is charged with implementing a \$1-billion, state-funded investment initiative. These investments create jobs and support advances that improve health and well-being. The MLSC offers the nation's most comprehensive set of incentives and collaborative programs targeted to the life sciences ecosystem. These programs propel the growth that has made Massachusetts the global leader in life sciences. The MLSC creates new models for collaboration and partners with organizations, both public and private, around the world to promote innovation in the life sciences. Learn more at <http://www.masslifesciences.com/>

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