



## **Baker-Polito Administration Celebrates \$1.1 Million in Workforce and STEM Grants to Educational Institutions in Western Massachusetts**

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

Chicopee - March 16, 2017 - Today President & CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) Travis McCready joined State Representative Joseph Wagner, Chicopee Mayor Richard Kos, and representatives from regional educational institutions to celebrate more than \$1.1 million in capital grant funding for workforce development and STEM education projects in Western Massachusetts. MLSC grants will advance the Baker-Polito Administration's commitment to build a highly trained workforce and seed job creation in regions across Massachusetts.

McCready highlighted the regional grant awards at a ceremony at Chicopee Comprehensive High School (CCHS). CCHS is receiving over \$105,000 in MLSC grant funding, enabling the school to link its advanced computer science program, including programming, coding and 3-D printing, to life sciences applications. Eight other middle and high schools in the region are also receiving grants.

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 our public 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 Western Massachusetts, and help build a stronger Commonwealth.”

“Massachusetts is building the nation’s most competitive economy by investing in STEM development, and in the infrastructure of innovation,” **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash**. “By constructing new science and technology laboratories at Smith College, providing planning funds for Westfield State University, and improving the quality of STEM education for students in Springfield, Chicopee, Holyoke and North Adams, these awards will help make Western 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.”

“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.”

“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 allow Smith College and Westfield State University to 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 Western Massachusetts.”

“Chicopee thanks the Baker-Polito Administration and our legislative delegation for their continued commitment to workforce development through the life sciences,” **said Chicopee Mayor Richard Kos**. “Our ability to create jobs is enhanced by our efforts to grow an educated and talented workforce.”

“These grant dollars will give our Chicopee students access to emerging technologies in computer programming and allow for advanced exploration in the life sciences,” **said Representative Joseph Wagner (D-Chicopee)**. “The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center continues to be a great partner with the City of Chicopee and the legislature in

our efforts to promote opportunities and access to pipelines so that students can pursue interests in high demand areas.”

“I am thrilled to know that students at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, Holyoke High School, Dean Tech, and Westfield State University will have the opportunity to capitalize on the benefits of this funding,” said **Senator Don Humason (R–Westfield)**. “Providing our students with the tools and resources they need to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce is vital to both their future and the growth and competitiveness of the Commonwealth’s economy. I thank the MLSC and the Baker Administration for this investment in the students and schools of Western Massachusetts.”

“These new grants from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center represent exciting new opportunities for Western Massachusetts students and workers. I am especially proud that a grant to Chicopee Comprehensive High School will enable students in Chicopee to apply their advanced computer science programming, coding and 3-D printing training to life sciences, expanding the scope of their education,” said **Senator Eric P. Lesser (D-Longmeadow)**. “Massachusetts continues to be a leader in innovation, and Western Mass is at the forefront of the high-tech manufacturing helping to drive this innovation.”

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. This year, for the first time, the program is also providing funding for teacher professional development. 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.

### **Western Massachusetts Regional 2017 Competitive Capital and STEM Equipment Awards:**

#### **Smith College - \$496,638**

Smith College will equip two research centers that will enhance life science pedagogy, familiarize life science majors with state-of-the-art technology, and ground the college's K-12 outreach endeavors in highly relevant practice.

#### **Westfield State University - \$75,000**

This planning grant will move the university toward their goal of constructing training facilities to prepare students for the biotechnology workforce.

#### **Baystate Academy Charter Public School in Springfield- \$110,000**

The MLSC grant will support the implementation of Project Lead the Way's Biomedical Science programs as well as support their biology, science and chemistry curriculum.

#### **Chicopee Comprehensive High School - \$105,579**

The Chicopee Comprehensive High School (CCHS) Computer Science program will address the need for increased student achievement in Anatomy & Physiology classes and for new learning experiences therein by linking advanced computer science to life science applications.

#### **Holyoke High School & Dean Tech - \$210,798**

The grant will supply Holyoke High School & Dean Tech's Robotics, Engineering, and Microscopy laboratories with new state-of-the-art equipment and technology.

#### **McCann Technical School in North Adams- \$29,164**

McCann Technical School will expand laboratory and computer science experiences for students.

#### **Springfield High School of Commerce - \$110,000**

The MLSC grant will increase student engagement in STEM-related content, particularly in the area of biomechanics, biophysics, and biomedical engineering.

#### **Springfield Renaissance School - \$40,040**

The MLSC grant will allow the school to implement a new learning experience: "Resistance!—Biotechnology to the Rescue" through a partnership with the Baystate Medical Center. Students will grow cultures of bacteria found in the school and then analyze which bacteria are resistant to antibiotics.

### **Veritas Preparatory Charter School in Springfield- \$38,000**

The MLSC grant will support the implementation of a science curriculum that is relevant, connected, rigorous, fun, and fully aligned with the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) standards.

### **About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center**

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is an investment agency that supports life sciences innovation, education, research & 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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