Baker-Polito Administration Celebrates $5.2 Million in Workforce and STEM Grants to Educational Institutions in Southeastern Massachusetts

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

For Immediate Release: Date: March 20, 2017

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Fall River - Today President & CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) Travis McCready joined State Senator Michael Rodrigues, State Representatives Carole Fiola and Paul Schmid, Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia, leaders from Bristol Community College and representatives from other Southeastern Massachusetts educational institutions to celebrate more than $5.2 million in capital grant funding for regional workforce development and STEM education projects in Southeastern Massachusetts. The 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 Bristol Community College (BCC). BCC is receiving $4.4 million in MLSC grant funding, enabling the college to renovate their science and engineering buildings, including upgrades to their STEM laboratories. The grant will enable the purchase of equipment that will modernize the college's academic and workforce offerings and teach skills necessary for entry-level employment in bio-molecular, biochemical, general life sciences and biotechnology laboratories. BCC committed an additional $2 million to these renovations and upgrades.

In addition, the MLSC has awarded more than $800,000 in STEM Equipment & Supply grants to nine middle and high schools in the region. 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 Cod 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 Southeastern 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 Bristol Community College, and improving the quality of STEM education for students in Brockton, Fall River, New Bedford, Easton, Taunton and Quincy, these awards will help make Southeastern 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 grant to Bristol Community College will 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 Southeastern Massachusetts."

"Bristol Community College is extremely grateful for the $4.4 million capital grant awarded to our College's thriving Life Sciences program. The efforts of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center coincide with the College's demonstrated commitment of bringing need-based career education and state-of-the-art learning resources to the communities we serve," **said John J. Sbrega, Ph.D., President of Bristol Community College.**

"Whether making investments in regional workforce development or STEM education projects, this funding is emblematic of the committed and dedicated efforts of the Baker Administration, our legislative delegation, and our educational institutions across the SouthCoast to educate, train, and equip our students with the workforce skills needed for the innovative job opportunities of tomorrow," **said State Senator Michael J. Rodrigues.** "The investment made by the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to Bristol Community College, Diman Regional Vocational Tech High School and the Kuss Middle School in Fall River will greatly help to improve and upgrade the quality of STEM education across our region and support the construction of science and engineering buildings, including the improvement of STEM laboratories, at BCC."

"I am pleased to see that Bristol Community College is a recipient of this capital grant for regional workforce development education projects" **said State Representative Carole Fiola**. "This funding will enable students in our region to expand their education and workforce technology career opportunities within the crucial and growing fields of science, technology engineering and mathematics."

"We are very excited about this opportunity for continued investment in the life sciences here in Fall River, from the middle school level to the high school level to the college," **said Mayor Correia.** "This will continue to give students an opportunity to advance their career and become productive members of the Commonwealth."

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.

Southeastern Massachusetts Regional 2017 MLSC Competitive Capital and STEM Equipment Awards

Bristol Community College (BCC) - $4.4 million
The college will renovate their science and engineering buildings, and upgrade their STEM laboratories.

Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical High School in Taunton - $100,000
Bristol-Plymouth will use this funding to promote STEM initiatives: the school will add an Advanced Placement Statistics curriculum component to its biotechnology program as well as strengthen laboratory related instruction.

Brockton High School - $109,988
Brockton High School (BHS) will expand biotechnology training opportunities for students, including expanded Biotechnology Pathway courses and elective courses for upperclassmen.

Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School in Fall River - $99,951
Diman will purchase equipment to build out a new Physics Lab and Biology/Biotechnology Lab.

Global Learning Charter Public School in New Bedford - $107,982
The MLSC grant will create a new Biotechnology course based on a hands-on, project-based program. Global Learning will also add biotechnology programming and research skills to its robotics course and introduction lab skills in other life science and chemistry courses.

Matthew J Kuss Middle School in Fall River - $40,530
The MLSC grant will enable the school to purchase biotechnology labs created by MassBioEd as part of their BioTeach Curriculum and provide professional development.

New Bedford High School - $110,000
New Bedford High School will establish a Biotechnology Training Program in partnership with Amgen Biotech Experience and the Harvard University Life Sciences Outreach Program.

New Bedford Middle Schools - $25,000
Keith Middle School, Normandin Middle School, and Roosevelt Middle School will expand their current life science curriculum initiative and couple effective STEM instruction utilizing the existing curriculum through STEMscopes with STEMscopes Life Sciences supplemental materials kits.

Quincy Middle Schools - $121,890
The MLSC grant will enable the purchase of a suite of state-of-the-art equipment to promote Massachusetts Science, Technology, and Engineering standards through hands-on classroom activities with practical and professional applications in Quincy's five middle schools. Quincy Public Schools will provide in-kind support for materials, supplies, and additional professional development.

Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School in Easton - $99,995
The MLSC grant will expand and equip the school's current biotechnology program, creating a dedicated state-of-the-art biotech laboratory.

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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