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Vocational Equipment Grant Program

On May 29, 2013, Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray joined Secretary of Administration and Finance Glen Shor and Secretary of Education Matthew Malone to announce the 25 recipients of the \$1.1 million in Vocational Equipment grants to benefit Massachusetts vocational schools. This program provides grant funding to qualifying institutions to purchase necessary equipment to prepare their students for the modern workforce.

"In today's economy it is critical that our students have access to hands-on training and learning that will allow them to gain industry-relevant skills, said Secretary Malone. "These grants afford our vocational school students an opportunity to keep a competitive edge in the job market."

The 25 recipients of the FY2013 Vocational Equipment grants include 184 cities and towns across Massachusetts. The recipients reflect geographic diversity across the Commonwealth, including several Gateway Cities.

Published in October 2012, the Patrick Administration's Five-Year Capital Investment Plan includes \$5 million in funding for a competitive grant program to benefit Massachusetts vocational programs. The Vocational School Equipment Grant Program provides grant funding to qualifying institutions to purchase necessary equipment for their facilities. One hundred and sixty-five applications were received for the inaugural grants, with requests totaling more than \$4.7 million. One hundred percent of regional vocational school districts applied for grant funding, as did 82 percent of all schools in Massachusetts with Chapter 74-approved vocational programs.

The grants provide over \$1,149,997 in funding, benefiting 1,671 students in 184 municipalities across the Commonwealth. Approximately \$1,925,553 in matching funds and in-kind donations will be leveraged to support these programs, a \$1.67 match for every \$1 dollar investment. Funded programs represent 9 of 10 occupational clusters as identified by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), with the largest investments going to manufacturing, engineering, and technology.

"The Vocational School Equipment Grant Program is one of the many ways in which the Patrick Administration is working to prepare the Commonwealth's students for the 21st Century economy," said Secretary Shor. "I am excited that these grants enable Vocational Schools to purchase equipment for programs that provide the knowledge and skills needed for these students to succeed in the workplace."