

In Worcester, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito announces \$2.5M in MassHire grants

By Johnny Fortier

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Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, appearing at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester Tuesday morning, announced \$2.5 million in grants to be used for Advanced Manufacturing Training.

The grants for fiscal 2019 were awarded to programs coordinated by MassHire North Central Workforce Board and 24 partner organizations, MassHire Metro North Workforce Board and 24 partner organizations, Greater New Bedford Workforce Board and 58 partner organizations, and MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board and 33 partner organizations.

The four workforce consortiums will train more than 700 unemployed and underemployed residents in advanced manufacturing.

“First of all, thank you,” Polito said in opening the event. “For being here in this room knowing how important this is to your organizations or for your respective workplace, and how important this is for the continued success of our Commonwealth as we look to grow emerging industries and staple industries that connect more people with the skills to the jobs that are evident here all across our Commonwealth.”

“Clearly,” she continued, “this is something that is working very well and we’ll do a whole lot more of it. Congratulations and more so thank you, for the great work that your doing.”

The workforce consortiums are made up of 140 community-based organizations, employers, educational institutions and career centers working toward bridging the skills gap and tackling challenges facing unemployed. By providing training to underrepresented populations, they are able to acquire jobs within the manufacturing industry.

Manufacturing, Worcester officials, said, is key as the city continues to grow.

“The manufacturing sector is imperative to the success of Gateway Cities like Worcester and to the economy of the Commonwealth as a whole,” Mayor Joe

Petty said. “With over 200,000 employees statewide, it’s imperative that we continue to invest in the next generation of workers.”

City Manager Ed Augustus Jr. said it is “essential” to train residents for jobs in high-growth industries such as advanced manufacturing.

“We’re fortunate to have an educational partner like Quinsigamond Community College leading the way in this effort and we thank the Baker-Polito Administration for their continued support of statewide and local workforce development initiatives,” Augustus said.