

**MAVA Colleagues, We are pleased to share some more Good News. Click the logos or links to read more. David**



We are excited to share some wonderful news concerning Old Colony Regional Voc-Tech Metal Fabrication & Joining Technology Teacher, Douglas Desrochers. He was the only high school teacher in the country to be included in the recent American Welding Society's "Welding Journal". The rest of the those interviewed were from postsecondary institutions across the country.

The entire Journal article "9 Months Later: [How COVID-19 Has Changed the Workplace Landscape](#)" is available with this link for your review.

Congratulations Doug on receiving this national recognition for Old Colony and the Massachusetts Chapter 74 instructors across the Commonwealth



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

We are excited to announce that Governor Baker's Workforce Skills Cabinet awarded eight Career Technical Initiative (CTI) grants totaling \$1.3 million to train 256 people ready to enter the workforce or advance in their current careers. Round 1 supports 21 career pathways across 8 Chapter 74 vocational technical schools in the Commonwealth. They will be the first set of programs funded by the Career Technical Initiative Line item. \$4M was allocated in the FY'21 budget.

MAVA fully appreciates the efforts of the Governor, Workforce Skills Cabinet, and the Legislature in supporting this continued commitment to High Quality Vocational Technical and Agricultural Education.



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL  
**WSJ**

The "Wall Street Journal" published an article highlighting the efforts vocational schools have made to adjust instruction, due to the pandemic. Two vocational schools were featured in this national article/podcast:

- Ignite Technical Institute in Brooks County, TX
- Monty Tech, Fitchburg, MA

It's not every day that a national news outlet features Massachusetts Chapter 74 vocational technical school - so we are excited to share the links to the [podcast](#) and [article](#).



WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL  
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



We are excited to share a wonderful story of a Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School graduate who is now the Director of Facilities Management at one of the best maintained schools in the Commonwealth, Tri-County Regional Technical School in Franklin. Harry Takesian, in his position feels increasing students' interest in a trade career—including carpentry, plumbing, electric and automotive—is something of continuing importance to him. "It's right up there with fixing problems throughout the school and making sure we have a safe environment for faculty, staff and students".



Dr. Edward A. Bouquillon, Superintendent-Director for the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District, received the eleventh-annual Dr. Patrick A. Schettini Jr. Memorial Award from the Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth (MPY), Inc., for his longstanding commitment to safety of the students and staff at Minuteman.



Felicia Mendonca graduated twice from Diman Regional Vocational Technical School in Fall River. Initially as a high school student, then the Diman School of Practical Nursing, she continued her education successfully pursuing a doctorate degree as a nurse practitioner. But with the critical need for nurses amid the coronavirus pandemic, Felicia put aside her plans of serving locally as a nurse practitioner to help out during the COVID-19 crisis as a traveling ICU nurse, recently finishing an assignment in El Paso, Texas.

Take a few minutes to read this brief article from "The Herald News" as we share a remarkable, inspiring, and real account from one of our truly heroic essential workers.



### **Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School**

**Vet Science Students Get A Paws-On Education In New Building -**

In most high schools it might be unusual to find a classroom of sophomores performing an ultrasound on a dog's bladder, but Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School is not most high schools.



### **Pathfinder**

The hands-on submarine maker - Austin Gilman could not see himself going to college and loved to make things and work with his hands, so he attended Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School in Palmer.



A 2006 graduate of **Old Colony Regional** Vocational Technical High School in Rochester is an entrepreneur. At 14 years-old Johnelle Ciano was already working at her mother's dog grooming shop. At 32 she's

now opened up a second location for her own dog grooming and daycare business in Dartmouth!



**Pathfinder** now has a 4 minute video highlighting their 2020 Freshman Orientation! What makes this [video](#) unique is that it was compiled by student Michael Gilbert, a junior in the Advanced Manufacturing Program, from Belchertown.



**Norfolk County Agricultural** wonderful story about a recent Norfolk County Agricultural graduate. We thank Linda Radzvilla for sharing this story - Junior Handler Sarah Brown and her Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes Win Big!

**Keefe Regional Technical, Monty Tech & BVT** How do vocational school students get hands-on education during COVID-19?

The Commonwealth's vocational technical & agricultural schools faced an unique, shared challenge as they reopened this fall. With an ongoing battle against the coronavirus pandemic necessitating social distancing and remote learning, school officials and teachers have figured out how to deliver the high quality hands-on experience for which the schools are known, and on which so many of their students rely. This excellent article highlights how 3 schools are meeting the challenge.



**Cape Tech's** STEM students are trying out drone technology at Cape beaches. The early warning system can tell beachgoers when great whites are nearby.



**Old Colony Voc-Tech** in Rochester - Three underclassmen were contest winners in UMass Lowell's annual Cool Science contest!



**Bristol Aggie** "As you can imagine, this is a challenging time for all schools, but compounding the pandemic restrictions with a new campus layout that includes new structures and the renovation of established

buildings,  
magnifies these challenges immensely,” Bristol Aggie Superintendent Adele Sands.  
“However, where there is challenge, there is opportunity.”



”CTE where STEM Goes to Work”

