

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



THE  SUN

We are pleased to share this recent article from the Lowell Sun. We thank Stacy Bezanson, Lisa Martinez, Kristin Foti, and Dan Phelps for their assistance in sharing this article.

[Regional vocational-technical schools take different approaches to returning to full, in-person learning](#)

While the end of the school year may be nearing, superintendents at vocational-technical schools in the Lowell area are determined to get all of their students back to full, in-person learning before summer break arrives, though each is carving their own path to get there.



BROAD
INSTITUTE

The Broad Summer Scholars Program (BSSP) is a prestigious summer program that allows high school students with an interest in science to be matched with a Broad scientist to conduct original research projects. Areas of research can be in a range of subject areas, including cancer biology, psychiatric disease, chemical biology, computational biology, infectious disease and more. Bristol-Plymouth junior biotech student Adryanne Gonzalez was accepted into the Broad Summer Scholars Program for summer 2021. Junior Colby Davis was accepted to the program's waitlist for this upcoming summer. This marks the 7th consecutive year that a student from Bristol-Plymouth has been selected. [Click here for full article.](#)



MIT Lincoln Laboratory

[Greater Lawrence Tech Seniors Take Part in Virtual Mentoring Program with Lincoln Labs](#)

Massachusetts Vocational Technical schools continue to thrive despite pandemic strictures by creating innovative ways to continue hands-on learning. Seniors and juniors at Greater Lawrence Tech are taking part in a mentoring program in partnership with Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory.

Approximately 20 mentors from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory are participating in the program, meeting one on one virtually with each student weekly. Students were matched with mentors this January.



U.S. Department of Education

Six years ago the U.S. Presidential Scholars program was expanded to include CTE students specifically. Presidential Scholars in CTE are selected for their "outstanding scholarship and demonstrated ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields." Five nominees are selected from each state in the country based on their academic rigor, technical competence, employability skills, and ingenuity and creativity.

[Click here](#) to see the five students have been selected by Commissioner Jeffrey Riley to represent Massachusetts as the Career and Technical Education nominees for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program:



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 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



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" 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”

