STCC expand partnership

Springfield Technical Community College and West Springfield High School have broadened a dual enrollment partnership in advanced manufacturing and created a new academic pathway to a career in health care. WSHS students now can choose to take college-level courses in health science as part of the Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Partnership Grant, awarded to STCC in September.

The $39,856 grant also broadens the course offerings available to students in advanced manufacturing, which include classes from STCC’s engineering technology programs.

For the past six years, WSHS students have participated in dual enrollment in advanced manufacturing. WSHS, in partnership with STCC and the MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, was recently designated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as an Innovations Pathway institution in recognition of the Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) program that combines academics with preparation for a career in advanced manufacturing.

Partnership

“Schools have broadened a dual enrollment partnership in advanced manufacturing and created a new academic pathway to a career in health care. WSHS students now can choose to take college-level courses in health sciences as part of the Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Partnership Grant, awarded to STCC in September. The $39,856 grant also broadens the course offerings available to students in advanced manufacturing, which include classes from STCC’s engineering technology programs.

For the past six years, WSHS students have participated in dual enrollment in advanced manufacturing. WSHS, in partnership with STCC and the MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, was recently designated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as an Innovations Pathway institution in recognition of the Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) program that combines academics with preparation for a career in advanced manufacturing.

The partnership between STCC and WSHS will focus on providing low-income and students of color with the opportunity to enter into one of these pathways. Up to 30 students will have the opportunity to take up to 15 credits at STCC. WSHS will recruit 10 students for advanced manufacturing and 20 for health care.

Dr. Perrone said, “As an Innovation Pathway high school, WSHS understands and appreciates the importance of dual enrollment programs, particularly for high-demand fields such as healthcare and advanced manufacturing. By increasing awareness of post-secondary opportunities and expanding the population of college-ready students in Massachusetts, we feel we will provide our students with the best opportunity to succeed post-graduation.”

Students will receive college credits at no cost to them and will also receive high school credits for courses taken at STCC that align with high school requirements.

The grant will also pay for bus passes so students can get from the high school to STCC and for stipends to pay for books.

“We want to thank you for your commitment to increasing college participation through dual enrollment activities, particularly for low-income, underrepresented, and first-generation college students,” Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito wrote in a letter to President Cook. “Through this funding and your continued support, we hope to expand access to great educational opportunities for every student in the Commonwealth.”