Cutting the Ribbon

Hundreds of dignitaries, including Gov. Charlie Baker, joined Springfield Technical Community College administrators, faculty, students, and trustees (past and present) for a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the Iris H. Rubenzahl Student Learning Commons, otherwise known as Building 19 when it was part of the Springfield Armory complex. Actually, several speakers who took the podium joked that the $50 million facility should simply be called "the Iris" for short. The renovated historic building will now serve as a one-stop hub for student services and activities. Clockwise from top: Rubenzahl, president of the school from 2004 to 2016 and visionary for the Building 19 project, cuts the ribbon; Baker, right, with current STCC President John Cook; Rubenzahl chats with students Karolyn Burgos-Toribio and Mohammed Gabriel; Building 19 opened in the mid 1800s, and has served the college in a number of ways over the years; Rubenzahl addresses those gathered for the ceremonies, with Cook and Baker to his right.